



## PARAGRAPH PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

### What is a paragraph?

A paragraph is a block of text usually dealing with a single theme or idea.

### Why do I need paragraphs?

Paragraphs signal breaks in the text to readers and give them time to pause and reflect on what they've read.

### What type of paragraph is common to academic writing?

Paragraphs in academic writing are the parts of your paper where you analyze a specific point from your thesis. You use evidence to back up your claims and expand your arguments.



**Did you know?**  
Paragraph breaks are a result of the invention of the printing press!

### What do I include in a typical academic body paragraph?

A topic sentence

An explanation/analysis using sources and examples

A transition to the next paragraph

**Remember!** Your typical analytical paragraphs should be *unified*, *organized*, and *developed*!

- *Unified*: The sentences within the paragraph should relate to one another, ensuring the paragraph doesn't jump from one topic to another and create confusion for your readers.
- *Organized*: There should be a logical order to your sentences. The topic sentence should come first, followed by your source integration and analysis, and at the end should be a closing sentence that acts as a transition to the next paragraph/idea.
  - **Hint**: Making a list of your paragraphs' main topics during the editing process can help you better organize your paper.
- *Developed*: While there isn't a set paragraph length, you want to make sure it is still fully developed. This means ensuring your claims are thoroughly thought-out, explained, and backed up with evidence. You want to make sure any quotes or outside sources you use are also properly explained, making it obvious *how* they relate to your claims.



# Parts of a Paragraph

Let's take a look at an example of an analytical paragraph:

*Group members use certain language within the Facebook group that relates to the social and political activism themes the page boasts about as being their main identity. As Hope Dawson and Michael Phelan state, "the most obvious use of language to signal identity is when people overtly state affiliation with or disassociation from a particular group" (437). By doing this, and by acknowledging the "pantsuit" as more than just an article of clothing, but as more of a symbol for the page's brand of activism, followers bring themselves into the language of the Pantsuit Nation group. By calling themselves political and social activists, and stating clearly that they support these ideas, they create their identity as social and political activists, aided by the other members of the group.*

Now, let's break it down to see the parts:

