

Due: By Monday, 12:00 Midnight

Introduction This assignment will enable you to practice writing a paragraph. A paragraph is composed of a group of sentences expressing one central idea. A paragraph is complete in itself, and is also a subdivision or part of something larger such as an essay, letter, paper or graduate thesis. Writing paragraphs is fundamental in all writing, and you have been writing paragraphs for a long time. However, many of us unknowingly develop bad writing habits that need to be broken. Throughout this course we will be writing paragraphs, so taking the time to master the basic concepts will save you a great deal of time, and will result in higher grades not just in this course but in future courses as well.

As you work on your assignment, remember to apply the writing process you have developed.

A Paragraph on Childhood

During this week’s lesson presentation, you thought about narrowing a topic to one that could be covered in one paragraph. In the presentation, we worked with the broad topic of “childhood” and narrowed it to “childhood memories.” We then narrowed the topic further to produce a short paragraph about a man who remembers his grandfather’s patience and takes his lessons forward into his own career.

You may choose a different narrow topic within the broad subject of “childhood,” or you may choose to write about a childhood memory of your own. Remember, you will want to narrow the topic sufficiently to FOCUS your paragraph. So, taking into consideration the advice given to you on the Assignment Bridge and all that you have learned through your reading and exploring this week, it’s now time to write a paragraph of your own!

Narrow the broad subject of “childhood” to a limited topic that intrigues you, using the prewriting strategies you have learned: Ask yourself the five W’s and one H, or use clustering/branching, brainstorming or journaling to arrive at your limited subject.

Tasks

1. Write your limited subject at the top of your document.
2. Identify your audience and write a sentence about who they are at the top of the document.
 - a. Your audience could be your own children, your parents, your future spouse, your best friend or a group of your friends, a public official, a public group or the public in general...You may choose one of these or make up your own. Think carefully about who might be interested in your topic – your most interested audience may not be one that is immediately obvious!
3. Conduct prewriting and then write two or three sentences at the top of the document describing the prewriting strategy you used.
4. Write a topic sentence.
5. Determine your organizational structure and identify it at the top of the document. Is it:
 - General to particular?
 - Particular to general?
 - Chronological?
 - Spatial?
 - Most important to least important?
 - Least important to most important?
6. Write your draft paragraph including your topic sentence, supporting your topic sentence with details, and using the identified organizational strategy.
 - Keep your audience in mind and strike the right tone, as we discussed and practiced during Week 2.

Deliverables and format:

Submit a draft of your paragraph, "Childhood 1st Draft" in a Word document. Please note that you will be asked to **revise this essay next week**, and refine it during Week 5. This will give you ample opportunity to write a wonderful essay on childhood! However, please concentrate on writing well the FIRST time.

Font: Arial; 10

Line Spacing: Double

File Name: *last-name-first-initial_Childhood_1stDraft.doc*

Due: By Monday, 12:00 Midnight

Before you submit the assignment, check it first!

CHECK IT FIRST

Before submitting your paragraph, check it on the following criteria:

- Did you include your limited subject at the top of your document?
- Did you identify your audience and write a sentence about who they are?
- Did you write two or three sentences describing the prewriting strategy you used?
- Did you write your topic sentence?
 - Does it communicate your main point?
 - Does it clarify the parameters of the topic?
- Did you identify your organizational strategy?
- Does your paragraph include:
 - Topic sentence?
 - Supporting details?
 - An organizational strategy that fits your purpose?
- Did you consider your audience in terms of format, tone of voice, and wording?

Exercise (15%): "Discussion - Challenge"**Week #3**

Due: By Monday, 12:00 Midnight

Introduction Like you, other students may have found some challenges with this week's assignment. How did they overcome those challenges? They may have found ways that you did not. Likewise, you may have found ways to overcome challenges that the other students did not. In this discussion, you will share how you worked through challenges you found in the assignment. Then, answer the following questions.

Tasks Write a brief paragraph answering the following questions:

1. What was the most challenging part of the assignment this week?
2. How did you meet the challenge?
3. After you have written your answer, discuss with your classmates what they found difficult. Was there general agreement or did different students find different parts of the process challenging? Write how these comments helped your writing process

Deliverables: "Discussion - Challenge"

By Monday, 12:00 Midnight, submit to your instructor one paragraph answering the questions listed above (tasks 1-3)

Before you submit the assignment, check it first!

CHECK IT FIRST

- Did you answer all questions?
- Did you respond to two classmates in your group?
- Are your sentences and thoughts complete?
- Is your paragraph free of spelling and grammatical errors?