

What is a paragraph?

In English, when we talk about a paragraph, we are talking about a group of sentences that are related to each other and that develop a single idea, or topic. It normally consists of several elements. The topic sentence expresses the main idea and usually, but not always, is the first sentence of the paragraph. Next, there are at least three other sentences that support or develop that idea; this group of sentences is called the body. A good paragraph should also end with a concluding sentence that refers back to the topic sentence.

Read the following paragraphs. Underline the topic sentence and identify the body. If there is a concluding sentence, underline it too.

Be prepared to

- discuss how the body develops the topic sentence.
- identify ideas and language in the concluding sentence that refers back to the topic sentence.
- offer a hypothesis of what kind of text the paragraph is taken from.

Sample paragraphs

The Gothic Revival was in its heyday between 1855 and 1885. It was the standard style for the wave of Catholic churches built in Ireland after Catholic Emancipation and for the many new Anglican churches. It vied with Classical as the choice for public buildings. The selection of Gothic for the Houses of Parliament in London (1836-65) had a huge impact on public buildings across Britain and the Commonwealth. The Gothic influence made itself felt in domestic architecture too, though few patrons took it as far as the Marquis of Bute. His fantasy castles - [Cardiff Castle](#) and Castel Coch - designed by William Burges, sprang from a romantic medievalism.

"Gothic Revival Architecture"

<http://www.buildinghistory.org/style/gothicrevival.shtml>

The Art Thief is a romp of a thriller, but Charney is an art historian who thinks art theft offers fresh ways to think about the value and fascination of art. An art thief, he suggests in his novel, is like an obsessive lover. The implication is that theft is an act of homage to the beauty of art. In his [factual book Stealing the Mystic Lamb](#), he tells the story of a painting that has been stolen again and again through its long history; Jan van Eyck's Ghent altarpiece. The strange tribute of repeated theft, he suggests, reveals the sheer power and greatness of Van Eyck's masterpiece.

Is Art Theft an Act of Homage?

Jonathon Jones

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/artanddesign/jonathanjonesblog/2013/jan/31/is-art-theft-homage>

Archaeology is a messy business. Digging holes—in the dirt, in the sand, and in the rain forest—is essential. Now there's a new way to search, with no shovels needed. Some 400 miles up in space, satellites collect images that are used to identify buried landscapes with astonishing precision. Like medical scans that let doctors examine parts of the body they couldn't otherwise see, satellite images help scientists find and map long-lost rivers, roads, and cities, and discern archaeological features in conflict zones too dangerous to visit. "There is much we miss on the ground," emphasizes University of Alabama at Birmingham archaeologist Sarah Parcak, a pioneer in using satellite imagery in Egypt. "We've only discovered a fraction of one percent of archaeological sites all over the world."

Satellite Archeology, National Geographic

Hannah Brown

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2013/02/explore/satellite-archaeology>

Artists rebelled against earlier realistic styles of painting. They wanted to depict the inner world of emotion and imagination rather than show realistic representations of objects. Expressionist painters like Paul Klee and Wassily Kandinsky used bold colours and distorted or exaggerated forms.

Inspired by traditional African Art, George Braque of France and Pablo Picasso of Spain founded Cubism in 1907. Cubism transformed natural shapes into geometric forms. Objects were broken down into different parts with sharp angles and edges. Often several views were depicted at the same time.

Surrealism, an art movement that sought to link the world of dreams with real life, was inspired by Freud's ideas. The term *surreal* means "beyond or above reality". Surrealists tried to call on the unconscious part of their minds. Many of these paintings have an eerie, dreamlike quality and depict objects in unrealistic ways.

World History: Patterns of Interaction
Beck, R.B., Black, L., Knight, L.S. et al.
McDougal Little, 2006.