



Basics of Academic Writing

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- Paragraph Structure
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Paragraph Structure



Outline

1. **Topic Sentence (Topic + Controlling Idea)**

2. **Supporting Ideas**

3. **Conclusion**

Main Idea of the Topic

Specific Area to Be discussed.

Gold

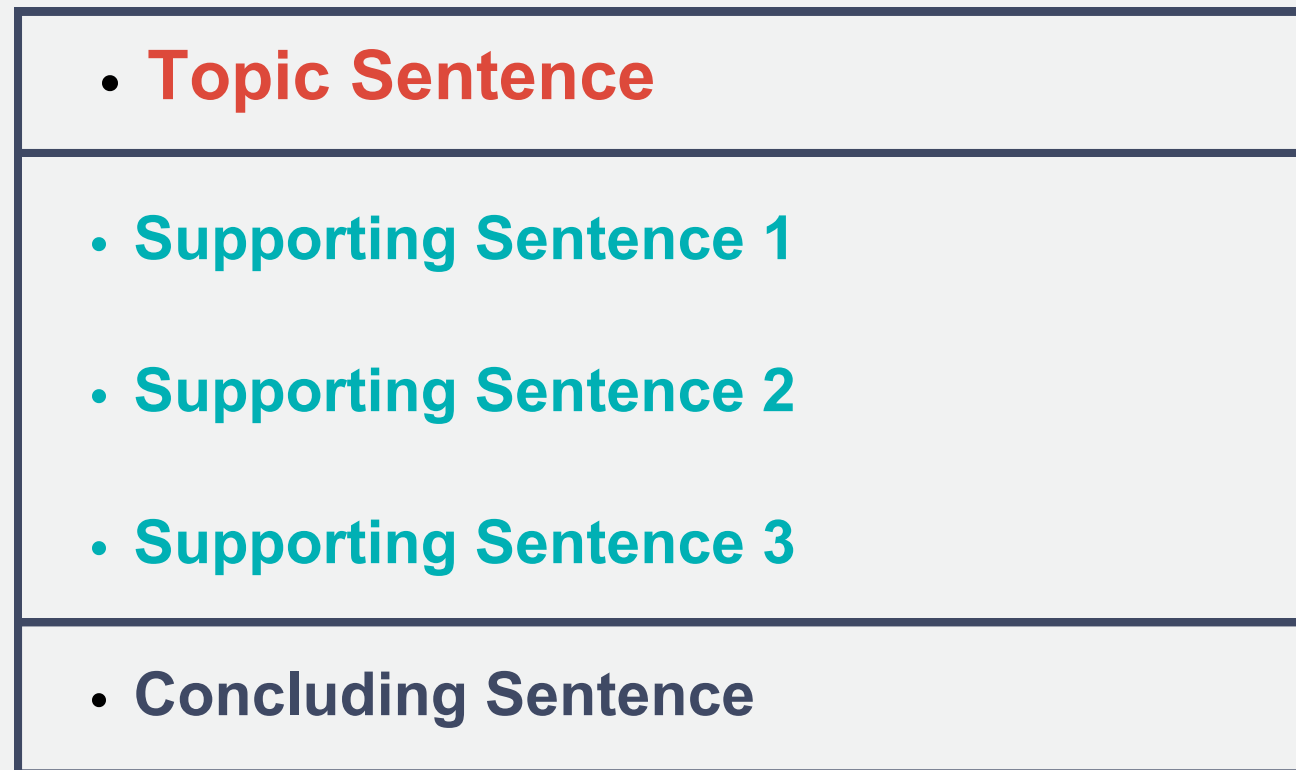
Gold, a precious metal, is prized for two important characteristics. First of all, gold has a lustrous beauty that is resistant to corrosion. Therefore, it is suitable for jewelry, coins, and ornamental purposes. Gold never needs to be polished and will remain beautiful forever. For example, a Macedonian coin remains as untarnished today as the day it was made 25 centuries ago. Another important characteristic of gold is its usefulness to industry and science. For many years, it has been used in hundreds of industrial applications, such as photography and dentistry. The most recent use of gold is in astronauts' suits. Astronauts wear gold-plated heat shields for protection when they go outside. spaceships in space. In conclusion, gold is treasured not only for its beauty but also for its utility.

Develop the Topic Sentence.

Signals The End of the Paragraph

Essay Structure

Paragraph Structure



• **Introduction**

- **General Statements**
- **Thesis Statement**

• **Body**

- **Topic Sentence**
- **Supporting Sentence 1**
- **Supporting Sentence 2**
- **Supporting Sentence 3**
- **Concluding Sentence**

- **Topic Sentence**
- **Supporting Sentence 1**
- **Supporting Sentence 2**
- **Supporting Sentence 3**
- **Concluding Sentence**

• **Conclusion**

Restatement or summary of the main points; final comment.

Introduction Paragraph

- **Introduction**

- **General Statements**
- **Thesis Statement**

Properties

- States the specific topic.
- May list subtopics or subdivisions of the main topic or subtopics.
- May indicate the pattern of organization of the essay.
- Is normally the last sentence in the introductory paragraph

Native American Influences on Modern U.S. Culture

When the first Europeans came to the North American continent, they encountered the completely new cultures of the Native American peoples of North America. Native Americans, who had highly developed cultures in many respects, must have been as curious about the strange European manners and customs as the Europeans were curious about them. As always happens when two or more cultures come into contact, there was a cultural exchange. Native Americans adopted some of the Europeans' ways, and the Europeans adopted some of their ways. As a result, Native Americans have made many valuable contributions to modern U.S. culture, particularly in the areas of language, art, food, and government.

Body Paragraphs

Language

First of all, Native Americans left a permanent mark on the English language. The early English-speaking settlers borrowed from several different Native American languages words for places in this new land. All across the country are cities, towns, rivers, and states with Native American names. For example, the states of Delaware, Iowa, Illinois, and Alabama are named after Native American tribes, as are the cities of Chicago, Miami, and Spokane. In addition to place names, English adopted from various Native American languages the words for animals and plants found in the Americas. Chipmunk, moose, raccoon, skunk, tobacco, and squash are just a few examples.

Although the vocabulary of English is the area that shows the most Native American influence, it is not the only area of U.S. culture that has been shaped by contact with Native Americans. Art is another area of important Native American contributions. Wool rugs woven by women of the Navajo tribe in Arizona and New Mexico are highly valued works of art in the United States. Native American jewelry made from silver and turquoise is also very popular and very expensive. Especially in the western and southwestern regions of the United States, native crafts such as pottery, leather products, and beadwork can be found in many homes. Indeed, native art and handicrafts are a treasured part of U.S. culture.

Art

Body Paragraphs

Food

In addition to language and art, agriculture is another area in which Native Americans had a great and lasting influence on the peoples who arrived here from Europe, Africa, and Asia. Being skilled farmers, the Native Americans of North America taught the newcomers many things about farming techniques and crops. Every U.S. schoolchild has heard the story of how Native Americans taught the first settlers to place a dead fish in a planting hole to provide fertilizer for the growing plant. Furthermore, they taught the settlers irrigation methods and crop rotation. Many of the foods people in the United States eat today were introduced to the Europeans by Native Americans. For example, corn and chocolate were unknown in Europe. Now they are staples in the U.S. diet.

Finally, it may surprise some people to learn that citizens of the United States are also indebted to the native people for our form of government. The Iroquois, who were an extremely large tribe with many branches called "nations," had developed a highly sophisticated system of government to settle disputes that arose between the various branches. Five of the nations had joined together in a confederation called "The League of the Iroquois." Under the league, each nation was autonomous" in running its own internal affairs, but the nations acted as a unit when dealing with outsiders. The league kept the Iroquois from fighting among themselves and was also valuable in diplomatic relations with other tribes. When the 13 colonies were considering what kind of government to establish after they had won their independence from Britain, someone suggested that they use a system similar to that of the League of the Iroquois. Under this system, each colony or future state would be autonomous in managing its own affairs but would join forces with the other states to deal with matters that concerned them all. This is exactly what happened. As a result the present form of government of the United States can be traced directly back to a Native American model.

Government



Conclusion



- Usually starts with Transition Signals.
- May restate your thesis statement.
- May summarize your argument.

In conclusion, we can easily see from these few examples the extent of Native American influence on our language, our art forms, our eating habits, and our government. The people of the United States are deeply indebted to Native Americans for their contributions to U.S. culture.



Dos and Don'ts

- Be **Formal** and Don't be **Informal**.

- ✗ **Also, a lot** of the findings are a **little** unreliable.

- ✓ **Moreover, many** of the findings are **somewhat** unreliable.

- Be **Unbiased** and Don't be **Biased**.

- ✗ Family is very important to the Hispanic population in my town.

- ✓ According to Watson (2011), family is important to 47% of the Hispanic families in Auburn, Indiana.

- Use **Present Tense** and Don't use **Past Tense**.

- ✗ Chapter 3 **explained** the methodology and **discussed** ethical issues.

- ✓ Chapter 3 **explains** the methodology and **discusses** ethical issues.

Any Questions?

