

How to write better!





**Writing
paragraphs**

The structure of a paragraph



Topic sentence 主題句

- **Stating what the paragraph is about. This would normally, but not always come at the beginning of the paragraph.**



Explanation/elaboration + examples 範例解釋+例證

- **Explanation or definition of any terms which may be unclear. Then provide evidence for any assertions you make: references to the sources you have used; data, statistics and illustrations.**



Implications 呼應與強化主張

- **Awareness of the implications, stress ideas again and wrapping up an argument. (this part is optional)**



Conclusion 結論

- **Your last chance to persuade your readers to your point of view, to impress yourself upon them as a writer and thinker. And the impression you create in your conclusion will shape the impression that stays with your readers after they've finished the essay.**



How to separate paragraphs



Basic indent vs. line space

Dorothy came to meet them and thanked the little mice warmly for saving her companion from death. She had grown so fond of the big Lion she was glad he had been rescued.

Then the mice were unharnessed from the truck and scampered away through the grass to their homes. The Queen of the Mice was the last to leave.

"If ever you need us again," she said, "come out into the field and call, and we shall hear you and come to your assistance. Good-bye!"

"Good-bye!" they all answered, and away the Queen ran, while Dorothy held Toto tightly lest he should run after her and frighten her.

A

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B



Remember **S E X I**

S = Statement 論點
(thesis sentence)



E = Explanation 説明



X = e**X**ample 舉例



I = Importance/implications

結果與影響



- Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

Professional athletes such as football and basketball players do not deserve the high salaries that they are paid.

- Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
- 你同不同意？職業足球與籃球員不應該坐擁天價高資。請舉例說明你的看法。

Thesis

我的觀點

- Disagree.
- Professional athletes are not being overpaid.

Statement

- 為什麼我這麼覺得

Supply and demand

determine these athletes'

market value.

Explanation

- 解釋我的觀點

Professional athletes provide a service: they display superb skills and stunning athletic prowess for crowds of people to enjoy. As long as people are willing to spend top dollar to attend sporting events, who can say that their high salaries are underserved?

Example

- 進一步舉例說明

And let's not forget that sports tournaments are broadcast all over the world via satellite and the Internet, and these channels generate massive revenues for sports clubs, sponsors and television companies.

Importance/implications

- 這個觀點為什麼重要/有什麼意義

I think it is fair for great athletes to share the proceeds from their companies' commercial success.

How to write authoritatively



Which sentence sounds more authoritative?

- Many believe that climate change is real.
- Climate change is real.

Which sentences sound more authoritative?

- It is my opinion that the Bears will win the game.
- The Bears will win the game

Eliminate Qualifiers

少使用限定句或是限定物

"The Elements of Style" by William Strunk and E.B. White - assert the facts without qualification.

- **(X)** Many believe that
climate change is real.
- **(O)** Climate change is real.

Eliminate Qualifiers

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"The Elements of Style" by William Strunk and E.B. White - assert the facts without qualification.

- **(X)** It is my opinion that the Bears will win the game.
- **(O)** The Bears will win the game.

WRITE AUTHORITATIVELY ON YOUR SUBJECT



That's why I think
that Abraham
Lincoln was the best
American President
in the 19th century.



That's why
Abraham Lincoln
was the best
American President
in the 19th century.



- **1. Insight** 個人觀點與洞察

Insight is the personal understanding gained as a result of coming in contact with particular information. Insight is the understanding gained from your own point of view. It is knowledge or information mixed with your personal experience.





- **2. Simplicity** 言簡意賅

Simplicity is about presenting information in an easy-to-understand manner. Simplicity is about making the information easily memorable by breaking it down from a complex whole to tiny understandable bits. Simplicity is the evidence of insight.

Maori Saka



- **3. Depth 深度**

Depth simply refers to how detailed your content is. Depth is about how well you're driving home your point.



- **4. Breadth 廣度**

If depth is about details, then breadth is about association. It answers the question, “How do the insights you’re sharing relate to other relevant concepts/subjects/principles/ideas familiar to the reader?”



- **5. Relevance 關聯性/共鳴性**

People don't read for the mere fun of reading: they read because they want to learn and apply knowledge or information creatively in order to solve a problem.