

## The Expository Paragraph

### Purpose:

The expository paragraph is the presentation of information, opinions, or ideas. It exposes something about a topic. There are two types of expository paragraphs:

- To explain facts or convey information
- To persuade or argue an opinion

As body paragraphs in an essay, the task of every expository paragraph is to prove one aspect of the thesis or to provide background or explanatory information that makes it possible for another paragraph to prove one part of the thesis.

The topic sentence is to the expository paragraph what the thesis statement is to the paper. Most paragraphs offer a topic sentence; no paragraphs offer more than one topic sentence. That topic sentence must be clearly related to the thesis, and everything in the paragraph must support and/or explain that topic sentence. Most readers expect to find the topic sentence early in the paragraph, but there is no rule stating that the topic sentence must appear first in the paragraph.

Please be sure that your paragraphs reveal their relationships to the previous paragraphs.

### How to Write the Expository Paragraph:

- **T:** Topic Sentence (thesis) - Clearly state your point in the topic sentence.
- **E:** Examples and Facts - Support your opinion with facts and examples (research).
- **E:** Explain your fact or examples.
- **C:** Concluding Sentence - Summarize in a memorable way.

### Labelling Sentences Using TEEC

We can label the sentences in a paragraph using TEEC in the following way.

- Label the topic sentence with “T”.
- Label all example and explanation sentences with “E”.
  - Label each sentence that has a new idea with an “E” and number. For example, E-1, E-2. These sentences would have two different ideas.
  - For each sentence that is related to the previous idea, label with the corresponding number and a letter. For example, if the next sentence is related to E-1, which was the previous sentence, label it E-1a.
  - If the sentence after E-1a is related to E-1, label it E-1b. If the next sentence is related to E-1, label it E-1c, and so on and so forth.
- Label the conclusion with “C”.

**Example of an Expository Paragraph:**

**Label the sentences in the following paragraph using TEEC.**

I hate mosquitoes because they annoy me while I am outside. For example, whenever we have cookouts, they want to swarm all around the food. Also, when I go fishing with my Dad, we always have to wear bug spray. The bug spray always stinks to high heaven! Then, if you do not want to use bug spray, the only other way to get them to leave you alone is to wear long sleeves. Yet, who wants to wear long sleeves when it is hot outside? Nothing ruins your day like bloodsucking mosquitoes.