Informative Paragraphs

Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: An informative paragraph has a **topic sentence** that names the topic, **three details** that explain it, and a **closing sentence** that sums it up.

Think of a hamburger: top bun = topic sentence · fillings = details · bottom bun = closing sentence.



1. Find the topic sentence

Circle the best topic sentence for each set of details.

1. Details: Pandas eat bamboo for up to 14 hours a day. They have a special thumb bone for holding stems.

- (a) Pandas spend most of their day eating.
- (b) I saw a panda at the zoo.
- (c) Bears sleep in winter.

2. Details: Brush for two minutes. Brush the front, back and top of each tooth.

- (a) My toothbrush is blue.
- (b) There is a right way to brush your teeth.
- (c) Dentists are nice.

3. Details: Plants need sunlight. They also need water and good soil.

- (a) Flowers smell nice.
- (b) My mom likes gardening.
- (c) Plants need three things to grow.

2. Find the closing sentence

Circle the best closing sentence.

1. A paragraph about why we need sleep ends with:

- (a) I have a cat.
- (b) Sleep helps our bodies and brains stay healthy.
- (c) First, turn off the light.

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3. Plan your paragraph

Choose one topic: **how to make a sandwich**, **why we need sleep** or **a fun fact animal**. Fill in the hamburger.

Top bun: topic sentence

Filling: detail 1

Filling: detail 2

Filling: detail 3

Bottom bun: closing sentence

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4. Write your paragraph

Copy your plan into one paragraph. Indent the first line.

Write your informative paragraph. Use linking words such as *first, next, also* and *finally*.

Check: ☐ Topic sentence ☐ Three facts or details ☐ Linking words (first, also, finally) ☐ Closing sentence ☐ Capitals and periods

Answer Key

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1. Find the topic sentence

1. Details: Pandas eat bamboo for up to 14 hours a day. They have a special thumb bone for holding stems.

- (a) **Pandas spend most of their day eating.**
- (b) I saw a panda at the zoo.
- (c) Bears sleep in winter.

2. Details: Brush for two minutes. Brush the front, back and top of each tooth.

- (a) My toothbrush is blue.
- (b) **There is a right way to brush your teeth.**
- (c) Dentists are nice.

3. Details: Plants need sunlight. They also need water and good soil.

- (a) Flowers smell nice.
- (b) My mom likes gardening.
- (c) **Plants need three things to grow.**

2. Find the closing sentence

1. A paragraph about why we need sleep ends with:

- (a) I have a cat.
- (b) **Sleep helps our bodies and brains stay healthy.**
- (c) First, turn off the light.

3. Plan your paragraph

Sample notes. Answers will vary.

Top bun: topic sentence

Making a sandwich is easy if you follow three steps.

Filling: detail 1

First, put two slices of bread on a plate.

Filling: detail 2

Next, spread peanut butter or cheese on one slice and add a filling you like.

Filling: detail 3

Finally, put the second slice on top and cut the sandwich in half.

Bottom bun: closing sentence

Now your sandwich is ready to eat!

Model Answer

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4. Write your paragraph

A model answer to share with students. Their writing will be different.

Making a sandwich is easy if you follow three steps. First, put two slices of bread on a plate. Next, spread peanut butter or cheese on one slice and add a filling you like, such as banana or ham. Finally, put the second slice on top and cut the sandwich in half. Now your sandwich is ready to eat!