

ARRANGING THINGS: PARAGRAPHING

General rule:

ONE IDEA = ONE PARAGRAPH

GUIDELINES FOR WRITING PARAGRAPHS:

TOPIC SENTENCE:

A paragraph usually contains a topic sentence which introduces or summarises the central idea. The other sentences in the paragraph, may expand, explain or give examples of this main idea.

It usually is the first sentence.

To make a well-formed paragraph, you should link the topic sentence and the other sentences in the paragraph by using linking words.

PARAGRAPHS:

A paragraph usually has between 3 and 4 sentences. The average length for a sentence is 15 to 20 words.

Individual sentences in a paragraph should be connected by referring devices e.g pronouns, sequencing words (then) and connectors (however). Never overuse linking devices.