

READINGrockets®

Classroom Strategies

Paragraph Hamburger

The "paragraph hamburger" is a writing organizer that visually outlines the key components of a paragraph. Topic sentence, detail sentences, and a closing sentence are the main elements of a good paragraph, and each one forms a different "piece" of the hamburger.

Why use a paragraph hamburger organizer?

* Share your examples!

- It helps students organize their ideas into a cohesive paragraph.
- It helps show the organization or structure of concepts/idea.
- It demonstrates in a concrete way how information is related.

When to use:	Before reading	During reading	After reading
How to use:	Individually	With small groups	Whole class setting

How to use paragraph hamburger

1. Discuss the three main components of a paragraph, or story.
 - a. The introduction (top bun)
 - b. The internal or supporting information (the filling)
 - c. The conclusion (bottom bun)
2. Ask students to write a topic sentence that clearly indicates what the whole paragraph is going to be about.
3. Have students compose several supporting sentences that give more information about the topic.
4. Instruct students on ways to write a concluding sentence that restates the topic sentence.

Download blank templates

- [Template 1](#)
 - [Template 2](#)
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Examples

This PowerPoint presentation shows each of the pieces of the hamburger. The example provided is about why a teacher loves teaching!

See example >

This site walks readers through each step of using the paragraph hamburger writing strategy. Examples and instructions are given for writing topic sentences, supporting ideas, and conclusions of paragraphs.

See example >

Children's books to use with this strategy



Are We There Yet?
by Alison Lester (Kane Miller)
Picture book

An 8-year old girl and her family tour their county, Australia, as tourists. Not only amusing, but this appealing book introduces the culture and diversity of this huge continent.



Bunnica
by James Howe (Atheneum)
Easy fiction

A small rabbit is found by the Monroe family at the movies on the night they saw a vampire movie makes Harold, the family dog, wonder if it's really a vampire bunny. The story is told from Harold's point of view, whose observations of the animals and the humans are laugh-out-loud funny.



Diary of a Worm
by Doreen Cronin (HarperCollins)
Picture book

The life of a worm — from the worm's point of view as revealed in his diary makes a very funny picture book.



Flat Stanley
by Jeff Brown (HarperCollins)
Easy fiction

Stanley functions quite normally in spite of the fact that he becomes only a quarter inch thick after a bulletin board flattens him - literally. This is the first of a series of books about Stanley and his travels.

I Face the Wind



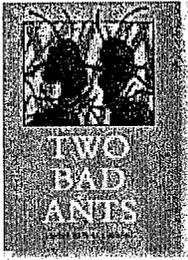
by Vicki Cobb (HarperCollins)
Picture book/nonfiction

The nature (the properties and characteristics) of the wind is introduced in this easy informational book.



Nic Bishop's Frogs
by Nic Bishop (Scholastic)
Nonfiction

Stunning color photographs of frogs are used to show how these beautiful creatures survive in the wild. The Red-Eyed Tree Frog by Joy Cowley (Scholastic) uses Bishop's amazing photographs to relate the saga of one creature and is appreciated by even younger children.



Two Bad Ants
by Chris Van Allsburg (Houghton Mifflin)
Picture book

Separated from the colony, readers join two adventurous ants and see the world from a very different perspective.

Differentiated instruction

For second language learners, students of varying reading skill, students with learning disabilities, and younger learners

- Show them numerous examples of well-written paragraphs and have them identify the parts. Or let them study it on their own by providing a number of paragraphs with the parts labeled.
- Provide students with some of the parts already filled in. For example, you provide all the "filling" sentences, and ask students to write a good introductory or wrap up sentence.
- Provide students with one example filled in entirely. Ask them to cut out each portion and then rearrange the pieces.
- Ask students to find a paragraph within their textbook. See if they can identify the different pieces of that paragraph. If necessary, have them revise the textbook paragraph!
- Have them speak the paragraph before writing the paragraph. Use scaffolding. For example, "What is one thing you would like to tell me about Fido (name of child's dog)." "How is Fido a lot fun to play with?" (elicit details). "So what did you tell me about Fido?" (conclusion).

See the research that supports this strategy

Richards, R. (2008). **A Student's Perspective on Writing.**

Richards, R. (2008). **The Writing Road: Reinvigorate Your Students' Enthusiasm for Writing.**

Strategy Swap

Teachers, have you used any of the strategies from our library in your lessons — especially in science, social studies, and other content areas? We'd love to share some of your real-world examples with our readers.

Submit your examples here >

(select "Classroom strategies" from the subject dropdown list)

http://www.readingrockets.org/strategies/paragraph_hamburger?theme=print

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Writing a paragraph

Main Idea:

Detail #1:

Detail #2:

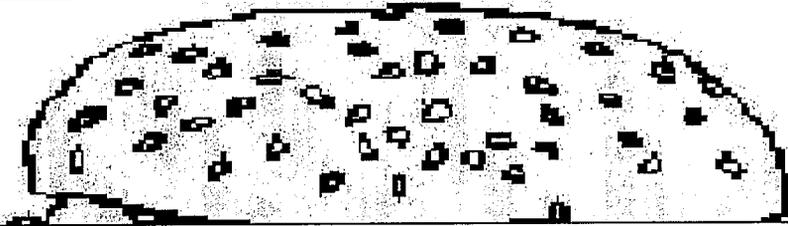
Detail #3:

Concluding Sentence:

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Graphic Organizer - Hamburger Model

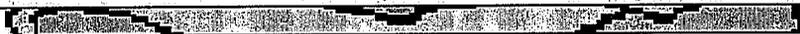
Topic Sentence:



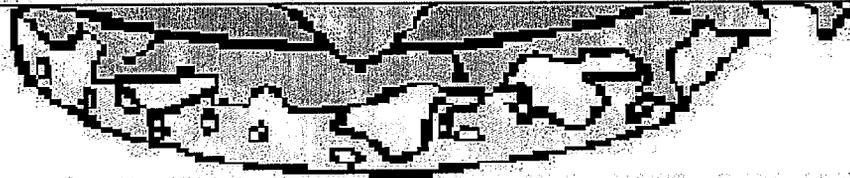
Detail:



Detail:



Detail:



Conclusion: