**How to Write a Good Paragraph**

Good paragraphs have the following characteristics:

* A clear opening sentence that lets readers know the paragraph’s topic.
* Sentences that lead into one another and that refer to one another.
* A concluding sentence that summarizes the paragraph’s main idea.
* Paragraphs have at least 5 sentences

**Start writing your paragraph by deciding the topic. The topic must be specific and focused.**

Examples:

Topic: Shakespeare 🡨 this is too broad  
Topic: Shakespeare’s plays 🡨 this is still too broad a topic since Shakespeare had many contemporaries.

Topic: Romeo and Juliet 🡨 this is a better topic

Topic: The plot of Romeo and Juliet 🡨 this topic is well-defined

Topic: The number of times that Romeo and Juliet say the word “love” 🡨 this is too specific

**Once you’ve decided on a topic, write down all the points you wish to include in your paragraph and arrange them so that the sentences flow from one thought to another.**

Example:

Topic: The plot of Romeo and Juliet

Unorganized Points:

* Romeo and Juliet love each other but cannot marry because of their families.
* Because of several unlucky mistakes in their plan to run away, both Romeo and Juliet end up dead.
* Their families are the Montagues and the Capulets
* The Montagues and the Capulets are two families who hate each other
* Romeo and Juliet decide to run away and marry each other

Organized Points:

* Romeo and Juliet love each other but cannot marry because of their families.
* Their families are the Montagues and the Capulets
* The Montagues and the Capulets are two families who hate each other.
* Romeo and Juliet decide to run away and marry each other
* Because of several unlucky mistakes in their plan to run away, both Romeo and Juliet end up dead.

**Once your points are organized you may begin writing your paragraph.**