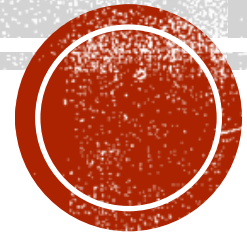
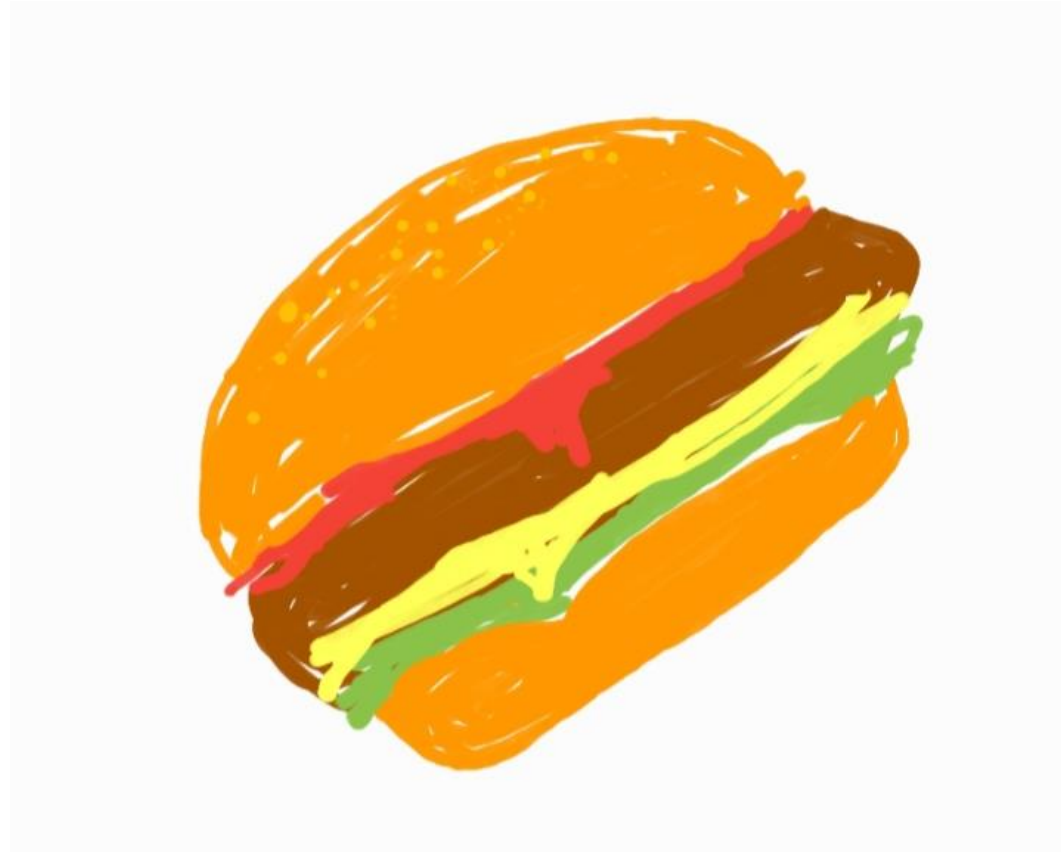


# LESSON: WRITING - 2

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**CAN YOU RECALL SOMETHING??**



## **Characteristics of a good paragraph:**

- A good paragraph should have a clear focus. It should have a striking topic sentence with a controlling idea.
- A good paragraph should have a unity. It should have a beginning, a middle and an end, and should give the impression of oneness. The sentences should relate to the topic. There should not be any unrelated or redundant sentence or point.
- A good paragraph should have coherence i.e. the sentences should have explicit connections; they should be joined or linked by using sentence linkers.
- A good paragraph should have cohesion, i.e. the ideas of the different sentences should relate to each other. This is usually obtained by repetition of key words or use of synonymous words, or by use of reference words like pronoun references.
- A good paragraph must be written in correct spelling and grammar.
- A good paragraph should have good supporting details.
- A good paragraph should have a psychologically satisfying ending or conclusion.



## The Forest behind My Home

The forest behind my home is mysteriously beautiful. There are lots of interesting trees, covered with amazing leaves of all different shapes and colors. When the leaves get full, they shade the ground and it gets dark. The darkness is a bit scary, but it is also quite pretty. You can sit beneath the trees and see many lovely sights. The noises of the different animals are fascinating. This forest is truly an awe-inspiring place.



## Characteristics of a topic sentence

A topic sentence should

- be a complete sentence, not a fragment
- be the widest sentence in the paragraph
- have a general statement about the topic and a controlling idea



## **Unity/Organization**

One important quality of good writing is unity, or singleness of purpose and development. In a unified paragraph or essay, all the sentences work together to support and develop the central focus. Effective writers help readers follow their ideas by ensuring that every detail sticks to the main point.



## Coherence

In well-constructed paragraphs, each idea is clearly and logically related to the one that comes before it and to the one that follows it. The details and sentences in coherent writings stick together in an order that flows smoothly.

A paragraph is like a brick wall of a house. If all the bricks in the wall are similar in shape, size, colours, and pattern, then the wall is unified. The cement or mortar that connects the bricks to one another is what makes the wall coherent. Like the bricks in the wall, the sentences in your paragraphs need to be cemented together in a logical way.

As you develop examples and reasons to support your main idea, you should be thinking about an appropriate order for presenting these details. You can arrange your ideas chronologically, spatially, or emphatically. The decision depends on the kinds of details that you have composed and on your focus, your purpose, and your readers.



## Transitional Words, Phrases, and Clauses

Words, phrases, and clauses used as transitions are like bridges that carry readers safely from one point to another. Writers finish one complete thought at a time and stop, and they signal that stop with an ending mark (usually a period) at the end of the sentence. Readers need to connect those individual sentences. To help them do so, writers sometimes put in a bridge to carry them across the “space” between ideas. Some of the most frequently used bridges are the **seven conjunctions** used with commas to join related independent thoughts:

for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so

Examples: I started collecting coins when I turned seven, and I've been collecting them ever since.





Read this paragraph. See what is wrong with it.

He was a delinquent in many ways. His mother loved him. He was a truant; he was arrested for breaking street lights. He stole a car. He was a bully in the school. He was intelligent. He made poor grades. His mother was worried and hurt. She never let him know. She was there. She believed in him. She let him know it. He never felt deserted. She stood behind him. He reformed. A mother's love paid off.



Now see what happens when transitional words are included.

Although he was a delinquent in many ways, his mother still loved him. Even though he often skipped school and was once arrested for breaking street lights, his mother kept on loving him. At one time, he even stole a car. In addition, he was a bully at school, and although he was intelligent, he still made poor grades. Even though his mother was worried and hurt she never let him know. She was always there. She believed in him, and she let him know it. He never felt deserted because she always stood behind him. Finally, he reformed. A mother's love, in this case, paid off.

This passage is clearer. See what the addition of a few transitional words can do.



## **Concluding Sentence**

To complete discussion, you need a concluding sentence to pull together the group of sentences that make up the body of your paragraph.

Usually a single sentence will provide an adequate conclusion.

As discussed in chapter 1, one of the best ways to complete the paragraph is with a concluding sentence that refers to the controlling idea expressed in the topic sentence.



# REFERENCE:

- Shahidullah, M. (2008). *Writing effective paragraphs*. Dhaka: Albatross Publications.

