

## Writing a Paragraph

A paragraph consists of several sentences that are grouped together. Most groups of sentences together discuss **one main topic**. Paragraphs have **three principal parts**: the topic sentence, body sentences, and the concluding sentence.

### 1. Topic sentence or topic sentence

A topic sentence usually comes at the beginning of a paragraph. It is the **most important sentence** in a paragraph. It means that there are not many details in the sentence, but that the sentence introduces a general idea or topic that you want to discuss later in the paragraph.

Example:

Beach swimming is very popular in Mississippi.

### 2. Body lines **detail** sentences or supporting sentences

These are called "supporting" sentences, they "support" or "explain" the idea introduced in the topic sentence. At minimum, you should have at least **three to five** sentences in your paragraph. Each sentence should introduce about the topic.

Example:

Beach swimming is very popular in Mississippi.

- 1. It is the perfect thing to do when you are on vacation.
- 2. It is a fun way to spend your time when you are on vacation.
- 3. It is a great way to get some exercise when you are on vacation.

