

**What is a paragraph?**

A paragraph is a group of sentences about one main idea. The main idea is called the topic. In English, paragraphs have three parts: the topic, the body, and the conclusion.

The first sentence in a paragraph is called the topic sentence and it tells you about the main idea. The last sentence is called the conclusion and it tells you about the main idea.

Read the following paragraph:

**Do Americans Hate Baseball?**

Between 1999 and 2008, the Boston Red Sox baseball team did not win a single championship. Because they had not won a championship since 1918, the team was called "the Curse of the Bambino." However, the Yankees, who had never won a pennant before, became the first of the most successful baseball teams. While some fans think the curse is real, most fans think the curse is just a myth. However, the curse was broken in 2004 when the Red Sox won the World Series. In 2008, the "curse" was said to be over.

1. What is the topic of the paragraph?

2. Write the topic sentence of the paragraph below.

3. Write the concluding sentence of the paragraph below.

4. Write the topic sentence of the "body" of the paragraph.

5. What is the main idea of the paragraph (the topic sentence)?