

NOTES FOR FOUR-PARAGRAPH STORIES

THE PARTS AND THEIR PURPOSES

Title

Grabs the readers' attention and interest

Is capitalized and set apart

Paragraph #1: Introductory Paragraph

Introduces the story

Introduces the setting

Introduces the characters, gives them names

Provides the beginning event and leads into the rest of the story

Paragraph #2: Rising-Action Paragraph

Introduces a problem to be solved by one or more of the characters

Builds suspense through a series of events

The events are in chronological order

Paragraph #3: Climax and Falling-Action Paragraph

Provides information about the crisis

Provides information about the decision

Provides information about the problem-solving actions

Paragraph #4: Concluding Paragraph

Provides an ending to the story

Conveys the message of the story

THE SENTENCES IN THE PARAGRAPHS

Paragraph #1: Introductory Paragraph

Sentence #1: A Topic Sentence that introduces the story and maybe hints at the reason for the story or moral of the story.

Sentences #2 & 3: Detail Sentences that introduce and tell more about the setting, which can include naming the place and the time and some details about the setting.

Sentences #4 & 5: Detail Sentences that introduce the characters, what they are doing, and what they are saying.

Sentence #6: Beginning Event Sentence that describes a starting event and leads into the rest of the story.

Paragraph #2: Rising-Action Paragraph

Sentence #1: A Topic/Transition Sentence that introduces a problem and starts the sequence of rising events.

Sentences #2-7: Detail Sentences that describe events of the story in order to provide more information about the problem and build suspense about whether the characters can solve the problem (include at least 3 pairs of Lead-off and Follow-up Sentences).

Paragraph #3: The Climax and Falling-Action Paragraph

Sentence #1: A Topic/Transition Sentence that introduces the crisis.

Sentence #2: A Detail Sentence that tells more about the crisis.

Sentence #3 & 4: Detail Sentences that describe the decision.

Sentence #5 & 6: Detail Sentences that describe the problem-solving actions.

Sentence #7 & 8: Detail Sentences that describe more problem-solving actions.

Paragraph #4: The Concluding Paragraph

Sentence #1: A Topic/Transition Sentence that indicates the story is ending.

Sentence #2-5: Detail Sentences that describe ending events of the story (including Lead-off and Follow-up Sentences).

Sentence #6: A Clincher Sentence that ends the story gracefully and provides the message of the story.