

Parts of a Three-Paragraph Story

Title

Introduction –

- Introductory Paragraph

Body –

- Rising-Action Paragraph

Conclusion –

- Climax & Falling-Action Paragraph

Introductory Paragraph Parts

Topic Sentence

Setting Detail Sentences

Lead-off Sentence

Follow-up Sentences

Character Detail Sentences

Lead-off Sentence

Follow-up Sentences

Beginning Event Sentence

Example

Introductory Paragraph

A Surprise Package!

At 9 years old, I wanted my own dog. My 14-year-old brother, Jesse, had asked for and received a dog for his 10th birthday. His dog, Sophie, was a beautiful Golden Retriever. Jesse and Sophie loved each other and spent a lot of time together in our house and playing outside. I loved Sophie, too, but I wanted a dog for myself. I wanted a dog to sleep with me and play with me. I started a campaign to convince my parents to give me a dog. I put pressure on my mom and dad to give me a dog for my 10th birthday by talking to them, showing them pictures, and enlisting my brother's help.

Example

Introductory Paragraph

Breaking The Rules

“This is a perfect day to take my friends sailing!” thought Sasha. Indeed, the sun was warm, the lake was the same bright blue as the sky, and the wind was brisk. Small white caps were dancing on the peaks of the waves. Last week, Sasha had promised to take Bonita and Sheri for a sailing lesson, and they had been waiting for a windy day. Bonita and Sheri had never been sailing, and Sasha wanted to show them the wonders of the sport. “Come on,” she joyfully called to them, skipping out of the YCMA camp dining hall. “Today is a great windy day!”

Rising-Action Paragraph

**Topic/Transition Sentence
(Follow-up Sentence)**

**Detail Sentences about Event 1
Lead-off Sentence
Follow-up Sentence**

**Detail Sentences about Event 2
Lead-off Sentence
Follow-up Sentence**

**Detail Sentences about Event 3
Lead-off Sentence
Follow-up Sentence**

(Include the problem and build suspense)

Topic/Transition Sentence for Rising-Action Paragraphs

- Is a type of Topic Sentence
- Connects the new paragraph to the previous paragraph with a transition
- Refers to the topic or first event of the rising action
- Mentions a character

Examples:

- The next day, the upcoming game was on Isaac's mind.
- Suddenly, Kayle remembered the three school tasks she should have completed.
- Without thinking, I agreed to go to the movies with Liu on my dad's birthday.

Example

Rising-Action Paragraph

Each week, I asked my parents to give me a dog. Unfortunately, my dad kept saying things like, “No, we don’t need another dog!”, “One dog is enough!,” and “Dogs are too expensive!” My mom loves dogs and kept saying, “We’ll see.” At the pet store, I showed my mom a picture of a dog, and I asked her to get that dog for me. It was a fluffy white dog, small enough to hold on my lap. I wanted an inexpensive dog. Next, I asked my brother to convince my parents to give me a dog. He started telling them to give me a dog.

Example

Rising-Action Paragraph

Within a few minutes, Sasha showed her friends how to raise the sails, cast off from the dock, and steer the boat. Sasha was feeling pleased; her friends were learning quickly and enjoying the experience. Then the wind picked up, and the sun was covered with clouds. Sasha took the helm, and waves started splashing over the bow of the boat. Fortunately, the girls liked the excitement; they were squealing happily. “This is fun!” they exclaimed together. Suddenly, a big gust of wind came along, the boat rolled over onto its side, and the girls were in the water. Their faces looked surprised and then worried. “Don’t worry,” said Sasha. “The other sailing counselors will see us and come get us.” “Let’s swim for shore,” suggested Bonita, with blue lips and chattering teeth. “No,” reminded Sasha. “Rule Number One of boating is ‘Never ever EVER leave the boat!’”

Climax and Falling-Action Paragraph Parts

**Climax Transition Sentence
(Introduces the crisis)
Follow-up Sentence(s)**

**Detail Sentences about the crisis
and decision**

**Lead-off Sentence
Follow-up Sentence(s)**

Detail Sentences about the actions

**Lead-off Sentence
Follow-up Sentence(s)**

**Clincher Sentence
(Describes the ending and
message)**

Climax Transition Sentence for Climax and Falling-Action Paragraphs

- **Is a type of Topic Sentence**
- **Connects the new paragraph to the previous paragraph with a transition**
- **Introduces the crisis**
- **Mentions a character**

Examples:

- **Before they knew it, Jason had jumped off the cliff.**
- **After the game was lost, my friend Elijah started to act really crazy.**
- **For a variety of reasons, the whole family started to yell at each other.**

Example

Climax and Falling Action

Paragraph

On my birthday, I was at first excited and then depressed. I got some very nice presents, but I did not get a dog. I started to cry about not getting a dog. My dad said, “I’m sorry, but we aren’t going to have another dog!” I decided to continue to ask for a dog. Every day, I talked to my parents about wanting a dog. I promised to feed the dog and take the dog on walks. I promised to help around the house. A couple of months later, I opened a big box under the Christmas tree. I got the dog that I wanted! Her name is Blaze. She sits next to me when I do my homework or watch T.V., and she sleeps with me. I am very happy that I didn’t give up on asking for my own dog.

Example

Climax and Falling Action

Paragraph

Unfortunately, no one noticed them out in the middle of the lake, and the boat started to sink. “This boat is supposed to be sink proof!” lamented Sasha. Pretty soon, the boat was under water, and the girls could no longer hold onto it. It was more than three feet under the lake surface. “I guess we’ve got to swim now,” said Sasha, so the girls started to swim for the nearest beach. They were strong swimmers, but they did not rush. While swimming, they saw other sailors go to shore. They could hear the dinner bell ringing and see the campers going into the dining hall. “No one knows we’re out here!” exclaimed Bonita. “I’m glad we have our life jackets and each other.” When they got to the beach, they ran along the shore until they reached the camp. Instead of going to dinner wet, they ran to the cabin to change. While changing out of her wet clothes, Sasha exclaimed, “I guess sometimes you just have to break the rules!”

Using Dialogue

Quote at the beginning:

“It was an accident,” said Donnell.

“Let’s get out of here!” exclaimed Josue.

Quote at the end:

Donnell said, “It was an accident.”

Josue exclaimed, “Let’s get out of here!”

Quote broken in the middle:

Two sentences:

“It was an accident,” explained Donnell.

“I will pay for it.”

One sentence (Compound):

“It was an accident,” said Donnell, “but I will pay for it.”