

Example

Introductory Paragraph

A Good Practice Ruined (almost!)

On a beautiful spring day in Memphis, the Roosevelt Lions baseball team was practicing for the big game against Mt. Vernon High. Fortunately, the field was well groomed for the practice, and the air was filled with the sweet smells of spring. The grass was in perfect condition for the upcoming game. Watching the players, Coach Russo was hopeful. Josue, his best pitcher, was firing fastballs from the mound. Not surprisingly, Donnell, the team's star hitter, swung hard, knocking the ball into deep center field. While running the bases, Donnell smiled. Coach Russo yelled, "Good hit, Donnell!" The boys continued pitching and hitting throughout the practice, which lasted two hours without any mishaps.

EXAMPLE STORY-PLANNING DIAGRAM

Sequence	P.O.V	Tense
Time	3	Past

Topic		Title
Sailing	Breaking the rules	

Characters
Protagonist: Sasha
Antagonist: Althea
Others: Sheri
Bonita

Setting
Lake - blue water
Beautiful day
Wind brisk
White caps

Message/ Theme
Some rules have to be broken

Ending
Althea says they did the right thing

Problem/Conflict
Leave the boat

Climax
Boat Sinks

Crisis	Decision
Boat Sinks	Break Rule

Rising-Action Paragraph	Falling-Action Paragraph	Concluding Paragraph
2 Capsized! Sequence Time 4 Capsized 5 Remembering rule 3 Spray, wet 1 Girls learning 2 Weather changes	3 Holding onto boat Sequence Linking & Time 3 Standing on it 1 Boat sinking 4 No longer touching it 5 Deciding to swim 2 Holding with hands	5 Facing Althea Sequence Time/Linking 1 Resting on shore 3 Running to change 4 Entering dining hall 5 Explaining to Althea 2 Planning

Introductory Paragraph
1 Sailing Lesson Sequence Time 1 Checking the weather 3 Calling friends 2 Remembering promise

Topic/Transition Sentence for Rising-Action Paragraphs

- Is a type of Topic Sentence
- Connects the new paragraph to the previous paragraph with a transition
- Introduces the first event in the Rising Action
- Mentions the topic in some way
- Mentions a key character in some way

Examples:

- After their skit, Stephano and Angel took off their costumes and got ready for the next event in the talent show.
- Later that day, Kailie remembered the three tasks she should have completed for the party.
- On the first day of band camp, Bryce noticed that life was pretty calm except in one instance: Marcus was upset.

Example

Rising-Action Paragraph

After receiving a motivational speech from their coach, Josue and Donnell asked him if they could practice pitching and hitting by themselves. Reluctantly, the coach approved, and he warned, “Be sure to stay on the field. Don’t bother the neighbors!” The boys agreed. While Josue practiced different pitches, Donnell tried to hit balls further and further to different parts of the field. First, Josue threw a change up. It dropped right over the plate. Donnell managed to get a piece of it, and it hit the fence in right field. Next, Josue tried a slider. Donnell was not surprised; he managed to hit even further into center field. Then Josue attempted to trick Donnell with a knuckle ball. Donnell swung a little late, but he felt the bat connect solidly with the ball. Josue and Donnell watched the ball soar high into the sky and over the left field fence!

Climax Transition Sentence for Climax Paragraphs

- Is a type of Topic Sentence
- Connects the new paragraph to the previous paragraph with a transition
- Introduces or leads into the crisis
(Does not have to mention the actual crisis, which can come later in the paragraph)
- Mentions the topic in some way
- Mentions a key character in some way

Examples:

- Before they knew it, their hike turned dangerous; Jason was standing on the edge of the cliff.
- As she came to her parents' home, Novanna noticed a strange car in her driveway.
- While the night wore on, the storm became stronger and louder, and the wind quickly blew down a large tree in the yard.

Example

Climax Paragraph

At first, the boys were pleased with Donnell's home run, but their elation soon turned into deflation. Continuing to watch the ball, Donnell yelled, "Oh, no!" with a panicked look on his face. The ball was flying toward a window in the house across the street. Josue pleaded, "Please don't hit that window!" After hearing the crash, Josue yelled, "Let's get out of here!" and started to run off the field. Donnell had mixed feelings. He wanted to leave, but he knew he would not feel good about leaving. Finally, Donnell shook his head and replied, "No, I've got to own up to this." "Okay, I'll go with you," replied Josue. Right away, the boys started trudging across the field toward the house. "Boy oh boy! What a way to end a great practice!" exclaimed Donnell.

Topic/Transition Sentence for Falling-Action Paragraphs

- Is a type of Topic Sentence
- Connects the new paragraph to the previous paragraph with a transition
- Introduces the first event in the falling action
- Mentions the topic in some way
- Mentions a key character in some way

Examples:

- As a result of the bullying, Acquisha took the long way home and considered her choices.
- Once he realized Henry was having trouble in the pool, Martin grabbed him and kept his head above water.
- After the boys gathered, their coach started telling them some stories about solutions that were tried in the past.

Example

Falling-Action Paragraph

Entering the front lawn of the house, the boys saw Mr. Delarosa, the owner of the house, coming out the door with a storm on his face. He immediately started screaming at the boys, “What is wrong with you? How did this happen?” He kept yelling and gesturing with his arms. Meanwhile, the boys tried to explain, but they could not get a word in edgewise. They gave up and stood in silence. Finally, when Mr. Delarosa stopped yelling, Donnell said, “It was an accident. It was my fault, and I will pay for it.” Mr. Delarosa was shocked by Donnell’s apology.

Concluding Transition Sentence for Concluding Paragraphs

- **Is a type of Topic Sentence**
- **Connects the new paragraph to the previous paragraph with a transition**
- **Introduces the concluding events of the story or sums up previous events**
- **Mentions the topic in some way**
- **Mentions a key character in some way**

Examples:

- **Finally, with the adventure complete, Stephano heaved a sigh of relief and hugged Angel.**
- **At the end of the test, Donita exclaimed, “Thank goodness that’s over!”**
- **After finishing the race, the girls relaxed on the grass and talked with their friends.**

Example

Concluding Paragraph

After taking a deep breath, Mr. Delarosa calmed down. He said, “Well, accidents do happen, but you boys need to stay on your practice field.” Then Donnell explained that they were on the field, but he hit the ball out of the field. Mr. Delarosa was very surprised that Donnell could hit the ball that far. He said, “I want to see you play in a game! Don’t worry about the window. I will submit a claim to my insurance company.” Thus, in the end, Josue and Donnell were relieved. They shook Mr. Delarosa’s hand and thanked him. While walking away, Josue exclaimed, “Giving a nice apology can really pay off!,” and he patted Donnell on the back.

Using Dialogue

Quote at the end of a sentence:

Jeanine ordered, "Take the money."

Pablo exclaimed, "Carlos is late!"

Quote at the beginning of a sentence:

"Take the money," said Jeanine.

"Carlos is late!" exclaimed Pablo.

Quote broken in the middle:

Two sentences:

"Take this money," begged Jeannine.

"You can use it for food."

One sentence (compound):

"We have two cars," said Mark, "but neither one runs."

Example Paragraph

Sari woke up with sand in her mouth and hair and sand on her skin. She looked around to find herself lying on a beautiful white-sand beach. Lying next to her was her friend Santal. She shook Santal awake. After Santal could speak, the girls wondered where they were and why they were there. They remembered a fire on board their ship, but everything after that was hazy. Next, they looked around for anything that would shed light on where they were. They looked for other people and for food. Unfortunately, they could not find anything but lots of plastic trash. It was covering the beach.