

# A review of a one-paragraph essay

- A one-paragraph essay

# Outline of a paragraph

- I. Format of a paragraph
  - A. Topic sentence
  - B. Subtopic sentences
  - C. Specific supports
  - D. Reworded topic sentence
- II. Features of a paragraph
  - A. Unity
  - B. Coherence

# Some effective topic sentences

1. Looking at computer screens for long hours may harm the eyes.
2. Human beings need an average of eight hours of deep sleep a night.
3. On-line shopping offers three advantages.
4. Sending an e-mail differs considerably from writing a letter.
5. Malnutrition can result from the severe shortage of three main sources.
6. Drinking three cups of green tea daily leads to weight loss.
7. Do applicants' impressive curriculum vitae appeal to employment agencies?

# Some ineffective topic sentences

- A. The high cost of living in Metropolitan Tokyo
- B. Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone.
- C. Let me explain the striking similarities between these two skyscrapers.
- D. Babies are innocent.
- E. Through hard work, the top student scored highest on Mathematics final.
- F. I think that body building helps develop big muscles.
- G. The film was great. (V for Vendetta symbolized dissatisfaction with the ruling party.)
- H. Eating honey is beneficial to the body. (eating honey boosts immune system)

## Losing touch

The inventions of modern technology seem to be cutting us off from contact with our fellow human beings. The world of business is one area in which technology is isolating us. Employees are often paid in an impersonal way. Workers' salaries are automatically credited to their bank accounts, eliminating the need for paychecks. In addition, personal banking is becoming a detached process. Customers interact with machines rather than people to deposit or withdraw money from their accounts.

Another area that technology is changing is entertainment. Music, for instance, was once a group experience. For many people now, however, music is a solitary experience. Walking along the street or sitting in their living rooms, they wear headphones to build a wall of music around them. Movie entertainment is changing, too. Movies used to be social events. Now, some people are not going out to see a movie.

Education is a third important area in which technology is separating us from others. From elementary schools to colleges, students spend more and more time sitting by themselves in front of computers. Alienation is also occurring as a result of another high-tech invention: videotapes. People are buying videocassette tapes on subjects such as cooking, real estate investment, speaking and speed reading. With the increasing growth of technology, human beings are, then, driven further apart.

# Outline of this one-paragraph essay

- I. Topic sentence: The inventions of modern technology seem to be cutting us off from contact with our fellow human beings.
- II. First subtopic sentence: The world of business is one area in which technology is isolating us.
  - A. First specific support: Employees are often paid in an impersonal way. Workers' salaries are automatically credited to their bank accounts, eliminating the need for paychecks.

B. Second specific support: In addition, personal banking is becoming a detached process. Customers interact with machines rather than people to deposit or withdraw money from their accounts.

III. Second subtopic sentence: Another area that technology is changing is entertainment.

A. First specific support: Music, for instance, was once a group experience. For many people now, however, music is a solitary experience. Walking along the street or sitting in their living rooms, they wear headphones to build a wall of music around them.

B. Second specific support: Movie entertainment is changing, too. Movies used to be social events. Now, some people are not going out to see a movie.

IV. Third subtopic sentence: Education is a third important area in which technology is separating us from others.

A. First subtopic sentence: From elementary schools to colleges, students spend more and more time sitting by themselves in front of computers.

- B. Second subtopic sentence: Alienation is also occurring as a result of another high-tech invention: videotapes. People are buying videocassette tapes on subjects such as cooking, real estate investment, speaking and speed reading.
- V. Reworded topic sentence: With the increasing growth of technology, human beings are, then, driven further apart.

Topic sentence

A. Subtopic sentence

1. Specific support

2. Specific support

B. Subtopic sentence

1. Specific support

2. Specific support

C. Subtopic sentence

1. Specific support

2. Specific support

Unity

Reworded topic sentence

