

Paragraph Structure

Overview:

Students identify the topic and closing sentences of a paragraph, and the subjects that these sentences have in common. Students also identify quality sentences and sentences that are out of place in a paragraph.

Objectives:

The student will:

- identify a topic sentence in a paragraph;
- identify a closing sentence in a paragraph;
- recognize two subjects that the topic and closing sentences have in common;
- demonstrate an understanding of sentence structure; and
- identify a sentence that does not belong in a paragraph.

Materials:

- Highlighters (one per student)
- STUDENT WORKSHEET: “Paragraph Structure”

Activity Procedure:

1. Distribute highlighters and the STUDENT WORKSHEET: “Paragraph Structure.”
2. Ask a student to read the paragraph aloud, and then ask students to re-read the paragraph silently and complete the questions.
3. When all students have completed the worksheet, review the answers and discuss how the subjects of the opening and closing sentences are similar.

Answers to Student Worksheet:

- 1) C) *The sun’s particles, traveling in the solar wind, take one to three days to reach Earth.*
- 2) B) *After sentence 2*
- 3) C) *Sentence 5*
- 4) *The first sentence of the paragraph should be highlighted.*
- 5) *The last sentence of the paragraph should be highlighted.*
- 6) *Two of the following: solar wind, strength of solar wind, traveling past planets, nine planets*

Paragraph Structure

Directions: Read the paragraph and answer the questions below.

The Powerful Solar Wind

¹Particles blasted into space by solar flares increase the force of the solar wind as it travels past the nine planets in our solar system. ²It takes one to three day for the sun's particles to travel in the solar wind to Earth. ³Earth's magnetic field acts like an invisible barrier to the solar wind, forcing the sun's particles to stream around our planet. ⁴Like water flowing around a rock in a stream, the solar wind flows around this magnetic shield. ⁵Streams run into rivers such as the Kobuk, Yukon, Kuskokwim and the Tanana. ⁶As the solar wind speeds past Earth, it pulls Earth's magnetic field lines into a long comet-shaped tail that extends for millions of miles. ⁷All nine planets experience effects of the solar wind as it races through our solar system.

- Which rephrasing of sentence 2 contains no grammatical errors?
 - It takes one to three days for a sun particles to travel in the solar wind to Earth.
 - It take one to three days for the sun's particles travel in the solar wind to Earth.
 - The sun's particles, traveling in the solar wind, take one to three days to reach Earth.
- Where would this sentence best fit in the paragraph?

"To make the journey in three days, the sun's particles must travel more than two million kilometers per hour."

 - After sentence 1
 - After sentence 2
 - After sentence 3
- Which sentence does not belong in the paragraph?
 - Sentence 1
 - Sentence 3
 - Sentence 5
- Highlight the topic sentence in the paragraph above.
- Highlight the closing sentence in the paragraph above.
- Name two subjects that the topic sentence and the closing sentence have in common.
