

**BUKU AJAR
WRITING III**



By:

**Widya Hanum Sari Pertiwi, M.Pd
Teguh Sulisty , M.Pd**

**KANJURUHAN UNIVERSITY OF MALANG
FACULTY OF EDUCATION AND TEACHER TRAINING
ENGLISH EDUCATION DEPARTEMENT**

2012

CHAPTER I

ESSAY ORGANIZATION

EXPANDING THE PARAGRAPH

As you have learned, a paragraph consist of three parts: a topic sentence, supporting sentence (the body), and a concluding sentence. When you want to write about topic in more detail, you can turn your paragraph into an essay. Paragraphs can be easily expanded to essay length. Similar to a paragraph, an essay is also composed of three sections. These sections are an **introductory paragraph**; **supporting paragraph**, or a body; and a **concluding paragraph**. Here the outline of ESSAY:

Here are suggestions for an outline form for planning your essay:

Thesis Statement: Write out the thesis statement in a complete sentence.

- I. Write out the first introduction paragraph topic sentence.
 - A. Identify the support. This can be a detail or an idea that the paragraph will discuss.
 1. Mention any additional detail about "A."
 2. If appropriate, mention another detail about "A."
 - B. If you have another detail or example you are going to discuss in this paragraph, mention it here.
- II. Write out the next topic sentence
 - A. Support
 - B. Support
- III. Write out the next topic sentence.
 - A. Support
 1. Detail if necessary.
 - B. Support

A quick glance at such an outline should reveal if the paragraphs are unified and coherent. Study the following outline of Louise Caron's essay:

Thesis Statement: Because of these aspects, Quebec is a place where you can find some of the most interesting sights you will ever see.

- I. Old Quebec City is the living witness of our history.
 - A. Historical aspects.
 1. Notre-Dame des Victoires.
 2. Ramparts.
 3. Plainses d'Abraham.
 - B. Seasonal aspects—beautiful in all seasons.
- II. From the Plainses d'Abraham, it is easy to discover the majestic Saint Lawrence River.
 - A. Historical aspects.
 1. Open door for our founders who established it.
 2. Today, the river is an exceptional waterway.

B. Seasonal aspects.

1. The location for great activities in every season, particularly boating, water skiing, and fishing in summer.
2. The river is navigable in winter.

III. On the north shore of the Saint Lawrence River, five miles from Quebec, the famous Montmorency Falls are located.

A. Historical aspects.

1. Discovered by a French explorer in the sixteenth century.
2. Highest falls in North America.

B. Seasonal aspects.

1. During the summer
2. During the winter—play on the block of ice.

Supporting details can be expressed in words or phrases in an outline.

Model Paragraph 1 -----

Man's Best Friend

Topic Sentence

There are three main relationships that dogs have with people. [First, we have working dogs. These dogs, such as

Body

Siberian huskies and collies, serve people almost like employees. To a sheep farmer, for example a good sheepdog is his most valuable partner. Other dogs are known primarily for their excellence in sports. The sleek and supremely fast greyhound is used in dog races, and many hunting dogs, such as setters, retrievers, and pointers, often compete in hunting trials. Third, many people enjoy dogs as companions. All kinds of dogs can be excellent companions, but a few breeds are kept only for this purpose. Some examples are the toy dogs, such as a Chihuahua or a Lhasa apso.]

Concluding Sentence

Because of the relationships they have with people, dogs are often called "man's best friend."

Sleek : smooth and elegant

hunting trial : a competition where dogs get awards for

A breed: a group of animals or plants that

Supremely : extremely

excellent hunting behavior

are similar in characteristics

Here is an essay on the same topic:

Model Essay 1 -----

Man's Best Friend

The dog is generally considered the first domesticated animal. The domesticated dog has lived with human beings as a working partner and household pet in all eras and cultures since the time people lived in caves. It is generally believed that the direct ancestor of the domestic dog is the wolf, originally found throughout Europe, Asia, and North America. Archeologists have found remains of dogs that are 10,000 years old. In these ancient societies, as well as in our modern one, there are three main relationships that dogs have with people.

First, we have the working dogs. These dogs, such as Siberian huskies and collies, serve people almost like employees. The dogs help pull heavy loads, round up cattle, and keep a sharp eye out for strangers. To a sheep farmer, for example, a good sheepdog is his most valuable partner. Sheepdogs, such as Border collies, standard collies, and Shetland sheepdogs, are very intelligent and can learn to respond to hand signals as well as spoken words. Sheepdogs in Scotland, for instance, move sheep along with barely a glance from the shepherd. As a result, working dogs know their worth to their master, and they are proud of it.

Other dogs are known primarily for their excellence in sports. The sleek and supremely fast greyhound is used in dog races. These races take place on specially prepared tracks where the competitors chase a mechanical rabbit. People gamble on these athletes' performance. Bird dogs are a type of hunting dog. Setters and pointers, for example, recognize a bird's scent long before it makes a sound and show their owner where the bird is by standing rock still. Retrievers, such as golden retrievers or Labrador retrievers, will throw themselves into a icy cold to pick up the bird their owner has shot. These special hunting dogs often compete in hunting trials. Clearly, sporting dogs are the athletes of the dog world.

Third, many people enjoy a dog as a companion. All kinds of dogs can be

excellent companions. Both the working dogs and the hunting dogs have great patience and are very good with small children. Most of these dogs will allow children to climb all over them and are great baby-sitters because of their loyalty to their owner and their family. A few breeds are kept only for the purpose of being a companion. Some of these are the toy dog, such as a Chihuahua or Lhasa apso. Since these dogs are so tiny, they are great to have if you live in small apartment. In short, all dogs, including the toy dogs, are wonderful companions.

Although there are a great many breeds of dogs, they can be classified into these three main types by their relationships to their owners. Even if you have no interest in sports and no farm to run, you can have a great companion in a dog. Because of the relationships they have with people, dogs are often called “man’s best friend.”

domesticated: animals that live near people and are controlled by them

an ancestor: a member of your family that lived in the past

a competitor: someone or something trying to win

an era: a long period in history that begins with a particular date or event

to round up: to find and gather together a group of people or things

mechanical: made from or powered by equipment

an athlete: a person who is a competitor in sports

The topic sentence of the paragraph becomes the **thesis statement** of the essay, which comes at the end of the introductory paragraph. The supporting sentences of the original paragraph expand into three separate body paragraphs in the essay. In other words, each major supporting sentences and its minor supports in Model Paragraph 1 become one body paragraph in the corresponding essay. Finally, the concluding sentence is made into a concluding paragraph.

Two other points are important to note. First, notice how each body paragraph mirrors the construction of the original paragraph. Just as the paragraphs you have written so far have had a topic sentence, supporting sentences, and a concluding sentence, so does each body paragraphs. Second, notice how the body paragraphs support the thesis statement of the essay just as the supporting sentences in a paragraph support the topic sentence.

Model Paragraph 2 -----

Animal Camouflage

Many animals find security in blending in with their environment. In birds, for example, it is quite common for adult males to be brightly colored and very noticeable while adult females and young chicks are light brown or sand-colored in order to blend into their background and escape the sharp eyes of predators. Many mammals have also adopted the colors of their surroundings over the years. A zebra is almost invisible among the branches and stripes of sunlight in its native Africa, and a lion is very hard to see when it is sleeping on the beige sand of the plains. Most of fish are darker on top than on the bottom; from above, they look like the land at the bottom of the water, and from below, they look like the water's surface. The safety that these animals' protective coloring provides has helped them survive over the ages.

Here is the essay from the same topic "animal camouflage."

Model Essay 2 -----

Animal Camouflage

Animals in the wild have many natural enemies. A small bird wants to avoid being seen by a hawk, a zebra doesn't want the lion to find him, and a flatfish would prefer that the shark swim quietly by. If an animal can't easily run away from its predator, how can it protect itself? One way that has evolved over time is protective coloring, or camouflage. Many animals find security in blending in with their environment.

In birds, for example, although it is quite common for adult males to be brightly colored in order to blend into their background and escape the sharp eyes of a predator. This coloring protects the weaker birds. Consider the bright red cardinal, a very common bird in colder areas in North America. The male is

like a red fire engine against white snow, but you hardly ever see the females. They are sandy brown, with touch of red on the wings, tail, and breast. The peacock is another bird where the male is bright and snowy, while the female is easily overlooked because of the dull coloring. The long tail feather of the male are generally bright and gold and have round markings of a rich order, known as peacock blue. The female, called a peahen, has short tail feather and is much less colorful than the male. Adopting camouflage colors help the female bird survive and raise another generation of bird.

Many mammals have also adopted the colors of their surroundings. A zebra is almost invisible among the branches and stripes of sunlight in its native Africa because its black and white stripes mimic the shadow among the trees and bushes. A lion is very hard to see when it is sleeping on the beige sands of the plains. The lioness in particular, looks just like a part of the ground until she raises her head. The camouflage of the lioness makes her invisible to her prey so she can concentrate in hunting and feeding her young. All these mammals have, over many, many years, developed protective coloring to assist them in the struggle to survive.

Most fish are darker on top than on the bottom; from above, they look like a land at the bottom of the water, from below, and they look like the water's surface. Many ocean fish have a horizontal line along their body that separates the top from the bottom. And ocean mackerel, for example, is easily distinguished by this dark stripe. Some flat fish have taken this protection a step further; for example, a fish that live on a sandy bottom has a light-brown upper side, while a flat fish that lives on a rocky bottom has an upper side that looks like pebbles. Because they look just like surroundings, these fish survive and avoid becoming someone else's lunch.

Looking like their environment is helpful to these animals for the survival of the species. The mother bird that is invisible among the brown leaves, the lion snoozing on the sandy plains, and the fish that hides among the pebbles will live to see another day. The safety animals find in their protective coloring has helped them survive over the ages.

► *Practice* **Outlining an Essay**

Here is part of an outline of the essay “Animal Camouflage.” Complete the outline by writing in the key words from each paragraph of the essay.

I. **Introductory paragraph**

Thesis statement:

- Many animals find security in blending in with their environment.

II. **Body**

A. **Paragraph 1 : Bird**

- *Topic Sentence:* In birds, for example, although it is quite common for adult males to be brightly colored and very noticeable, adult females and young chicks are light brown or sand colored in order to blend into their background and escape the sharp eyes of a predator.

Major support 1:

► _____

Minor support(s):

► _____

Major support 1:

► _____

Minor support(s):

► _____

- **Concluding sentence:** adopting camouflage colors helps the female birds survives and raise another generation of birds.

B. Paragraph 2 :

- ▶ **Topic Sentence** : Many mammals have also adopted the colors of their surroundings.

Major support 1:

▶ _____

Major support 1:

▶ _____

Minor support(s):

▶ _____

- ▶ **Concluding sentence**: All these mammals have, over many, many years, develop protective coloring to assist them in the struggle to survive.

C. Paragraph 3 :

- ▶ **Topic Sentence** : most fish are darker on top than on the bottom; from above, they look like the land at the bottom of the water, and from below, they look like the water's surface..

Major support 1:

▶ _____

Minor support(s):

▶ _____

Major support 1:

▶ _____

- ▶ **Concluding sentence**: because they look like their surroundings, these fish survive and avoid becoming someone else's lunch.

III. **Concluding paragraph**

CHAPTER II

THESIS STATEMENT

PART OF A THESIS STATEMENT

The thesis statement is the most important sentences in your essay. It is the main idea for the whole essay, and it frequently shows (directly or indirectly) the number and the content of the body paragraphs of the essay. Clear thesis statements are essential for good essay writing in English.

TOPIC AND CONTROLLING IDEA

A thesis statement has two main parts: the topic and the controlling idea. The topic is the subject of the essay; what the essay is about. The controlling idea is what you are going to say about the topic. As you can see, the thesis statement of an essay is made up of the same parts in an essay has the same function as the topic sentence in a paragraph.

Below are the thesis statements from the two essays, “man’s best friend” and “animals camouflage.” The topic have been underlined and the controlling idea have been bolded.

There are **three main** relationships that dogs have with people.

Many animals **find security in blending in with their environment**.

As with topic sentences, it is not enough to just state the topic essay in the thesis statement. You must also tell the reader what your essay will say about the topic, which means that you possibilities for controlling idea. Naturally, for any one topic there are many possibilities for controlling ideas. For example, with the topic *dogs*, you could write thesis statements such as:

Since they were first domesticated, dogs **have helped human being a lot**.

In this essay, you would give examples of how dogs can be helpful to people.

There are **many types of dogs**.

In this essay, you would discuss the various types of dogs

An English setter and Gordon setter have **a few obvious differences, but they are mostly similar.**

In this essay, you would describe the differences and similarities between two breeds of dogs: an English setter and a Gordon setter.

PREDICTOR

In addition, some thesis statement may also have a third component called a predictor. The predictor of a thesis statement tells the reader how many body paragraphs there will be in the essay and what their content will be. For example:

Wars in the twentieth century **were fought for three main reasons** *ethnic, economic, and religious.*

In this thesis statement, the topic is *wars in the twentieth century*. The controlling idea is that they *were fought for three reasons*. The third part of this thesis statement lists the three reasons that the author believes were most important: *ethnic reasons, economic reasons and religious reasons*. We call this third part of the thesis statement the predictor because it predicts the number and content of the essay paragraphs.

► *Practice 1*

Identifying the Parts of Thesis Statements

Read these four thesis statement and answer the questions.

1. Modern methods of building houses, have greatly increased their ability to withstand earthquakes.

What is the topic?

What is the controlling idea?

If there is a predicator, what is it?

2. Its beauty, history, and location make Washington, D.C., a fascinating place to visit.

What is the topic?

What is the controlling idea?

If there is a predicator, what is it?

3. There is considerable evidence to show that there is life on other planets.

What is the topic?

What is the controlling idea?

If there is a predicator, what is it?

4. There characteristics of the house in my country show that it gets very cold there in winter: the thick walls, the two-door entries, and the steep roofs.

What is the topic?

What is the controlling idea?

If there is a predicator, what is it?

▶ *Practice 2* **Predicting Essay Content**

Predict the content of the body paragraphs from these three thesis statements. Write two or three key words describing the content of the body paragraphs that you think will follow each thesis statement.

1. As we human beings shape our environment by building and producing, we are increasingly polluting our air, our water, and our soil.

Body Paragraph 1: _____

Body Paragraph 2: _____

Body Paragraph 3: _____

2. The main advantages of urban planning are that we can control a city's appearance, we can organize transportation effectively, and we can make sure there are enough open spaces.

Body Paragraph 1: _____

Body Paragraph 2: _____

Body Paragraph 3: _____

3. With its winding paths, lakes, and small forests, Central Park in New York City is the most important example of the romantic style of landscape architecture in the United States.

Body Paragraph 1: _____

Body Paragraph 2: _____

Body Paragraph 3: _____

Rules for Thesis Statement

1. A thesis statement must be a *statement*, not a question.

Not a thesis statement: Are dogs good companions?

Thesis statement: Dogs are good companions.

2. A thesis statement must be a *complete sentence*. This means that it must have a subject and a verb with a tense.

Not a thesis statement: City living hazardous to your health.

Thesis statement: City living hazardous to your health.

3. A thesis statement is an *opinion*; it cannot be a simple statement of fact. A fact does not need any support, and therefore you cannot write an essay about it.

Not a thesis statement: I have an older brother and a younger brother.

Thesis statement: I have much more in common with my younger brother than I do with my older brother.

4. A thesis statement must state the controlling idea. This means that you must state your position on the topic; you cannot simply announce the topic of your essay.

Not a thesis statement: This essay is about air pollution.

Thesis statement: Recent methods of reducing air pollution are showing some positive results.

5. A thesis statement should have only *one* controlling idea.

Not a thesis statement: Public transportation in my hometown is too expensive, and it is slower than the transportation in Tokyo.

Thesis statement: Public transportation in my hometown is too expensive

► *Practice 3*


Thesis Statement

Put a check mark in front of the sentences that are thesis statement. If a sentence is not a thesis statement, write the number(s) of the rules(s) it violates on the line in front of it, and change it so that it is a thesis statement.

- _____ 1. Japanese cars are better than American cars.
- _____ 2. A Mitsubishi is Japanese car
- _____ 3. I'm going to show you why seat belts are necessary
- _____ 4. Are seat belts necessary?
- _____ 5. Wearing a seat belt can save your life.
- _____ 6. Students who work while they are studying meet a lot of people, and their professors also work hard.
- _____ 7. There are both advantages and disadvantages to working while you are an undergraduate.
- _____ 8. Work-study programs have more advantages that

disadvantages.

- _____ 9. Work-study programs: an analysis.
 - _____ 10. In this essay, I will compare working on campus and working off campus.
 - _____ 11. The advantages of majoring in engineering
 - _____ 12. I would like to discuss my views on the Olympic Games.
 - _____ 13. Students should be allowed to manage the book-store
 - _____ 14. My vacation in San Francisco was a lot of fun, and I liked visiting the wine country in California, too.
 - _____ 15. Why do I want to be a lawyer?
 - _____ 16. The differences between Mandarin and Hunan cuisine.
 - _____ 17. You can find some of the most colorful people on the bus.
 - _____ 18. Being honest is important.
 - _____ 19. I am going to describe my home.
 - _____ 20. There are many similarities and differences between Boston and Seattle.
-

	<i>Practice 4</i>	
---	-------------------	--

Study the following statement, which are not thesis statements. Try to rewrite each of the sentences to make it a thesis statement. The first one is done

1. I am going to explain why I decided to go to college
Choosing to go to college was a difficult decision.
-

2. The hazards of storing chemical wastes.
-

3. There are many similarities and differences between life in the country and life in the city.
-

4. New York City is the largest city in the United States.

-
5. Smoking can be hazardous to a person's health, and it is also very unpleasant to watch someone smoking.
-

▶ *Practice 5*

Writing Thesis Statement

Choose five of these eight topics and write a good thesis statement for each. At least three of your five statements should have a predictor.

Example

More and more species of animals are becoming endangered because of pollution, excessive, hunting, and expanding industry.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Wild animals | 5. The world's changing climate |
| 2. Endangered species | 6. Oceans/water |
| 3. Forests/vegetation | 7. The world's food production |
| 4. Transportation | 8. Housing |

CHAPTER III

INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH

THE INTRODUCTION

The thesis statement is the main statement for the entire essay. But where should the thesis statement be placed/ although there is no law that requires the thesis to be placed in any particular place, the thesis statement is usually in the

introduction paragraph. After all, the thesis is the statement that the body paragraphs are going to explore. But where in the introduction should the thesis statement be placed? Before we answer this question, let us look at the characteristics of an introductory paragraph.

1. *An introductory paragraph should introduce the topic.* Do not forget that the introductory paragraph is the first thing that a reader sees. Obviously this paragraph should inform the reader of the topic being discussed.
2. *An introductory paragraph should indicate generally how the topic is going to be developed.* A good introductory paragraph should indicate whether the essay is going to discuss causes, effects, reasons, or examples; whether the essay is going to classify, describe, narrate, or explain a process.
3. *Generally speaking, an introductory paragraph should contain the thesis statement.* This is a general rule, of course. In more sophisticated writing, the thesis statement sometimes appears later in the essay, sometimes even at the end. In some cases, too, the thesis is just implied. For class essays, however, it is a good idea to state the thesis clearly in the introduction.
4. *Ideally, an introductory paragraph should be inviting; that is, it should be interesting enough to make the reader want to continue reading.* Since the introductory paragraph functions to introduce the topic and since the introductory paragraph should be inviting, it makes good sense not to put the thesis statement right at the beginning of the introductory paragraph. Not only should you introduce the topic before you state an opinion about it (the thesis statement), but you should try to entice the reader to continue after sentence is not usually very inviting; in fact, if the reader disagrees with the opinion, it may very well discourage him or her from reading your essay. Therefore, *it is generally a good idea to place the thesis statement at or near the end of the introductory paragraph.*

TYPES OF INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH

There are many ways for a writer to get the readers' attention in an introductory paragraph. Four of the most common ways are discussed here.

Anecdote

An anecdote is a brief story that illustrates your topic. You can either base this anecdote on your own experience or invent a story about someone else. Model Paragraph 1 is an example of a personal anecdote, while Model Paragraph 2 demonstrates the use of a third person anecdote.

Model paragraph 1 ~~~~~

My younger brother was a good student until our parents got divorces. Then, while my parents' lives become a war zone over property and emotions, my brother withdrew into himself and felt abandoned and unloved. He needed to feel the he was a part of something. That's when he got involved with a gang at his high school. The gang he joined became his family and was more important to him than anything. My parents didn't notice until my brother got badly hurt in a gang fight. I am convinced that *gangs are a direct result of the breakdown of the traditional family.*

What about you?

Gang is a word that is used for a group of young people who usually cause trouble. Are gangs common in your country? How do you feel about gangs?

Model paragraph 2 ~~~~~

The teenager hated to be at home. His parents were always fighting—at least on the rare occasions that both of them were at home at the same time. His mother was on drugs, and his father was an alcoholic. He felt totally alone at home, but when he was with his fellow gang members, he felt as if he belonged. He loved being with the members of his gang and would do anything for them and with them. This all-too-common example illustrates why I think that *gangs are a direct result of the breakdown of the traditional family.*

INTERESTING FACTS or STATISTIC

Another way to introduce your essay is with interesting fact or statistics. To write this kind of introduction, you need to be aware of commonly known information. You can expand your knowledge of facts and statistics by carefully reading newspapers and journals. Here is an example of an introductory paragraph using facts and statistics.

Model paragraph 3 ~~~~~

It is estimated that there are nearly 5,000 gangs in the United States with a total of almost 250,000 members. In fact, in inner cities, where gangs are most common, 7 percent of all teenagers are gang members. Why are all these young adults choosing to be gang members? In my opinion, *gangs are a direct result of the breakdown of the traditional family.*

Historical introduction

You may also choose to write a brief historical introduction to your essay. Naturally, this is not meant to be a comprehensive account; it simply provides general historical background.

Model paragraph 4 ~~~~~

Gangs have existed in the United States for at least 100 years. At the turn of the twentieth century, there were many gangs in big East Coast cities. The gangs were mostly made up of members of the same ethnic group and primarily protected the neighborhood where their families lived. Nowadays, however, gang members have little to do with protecting their relatives. It's my belief that *gangs are a direct result of the breakdown of the traditional family.*

Funnel

This is perhaps the most common type of introduction. It begins with a general statement of the larger topic, and then each sentence narrows it down until you get to the specific

thesis statement. The trick is to start out general, but not too general. Remember to keep the introduction relevant. Here is an example of funnel introduction.

Model paragraph 5 ~~~~~

It's difficult to grow up in this society. A teenager can get into all kinds of trouble with school, smoking, drugs, and dating. One of the worst kinds of trouble that a teenager can get into is getting involved with a gang. Gang members commit crimes and get hurt or killed all too often. Why do teenagers get involved in gangs? I think that *gangs are a direct result of the breakdown of the traditional family.*

Turnabout

Turn about introduction opens with a few sentences summarizing a point of view that is actually the opposite of the writer's own thesis. By the end of the introduction, the writer makes a complete turnabout and presents his or her thesis—the opposite of what he or she started out with. This technique is useful when the writer's purpose in the essay is to argue a point or to clear up a commonly held misconception. Like the funnel, the turnabout opens generally and congenially, but unlike the funnel, the turnabout has this dramatic shift in ideas. In other words, in the Turnabout the writer sets up the opponent's view of attack

Model paragraph 6 ~~~~~

Before I came to college, I was told not to expect my professors to care much about me or my work; indeed, I was told that I would be lucky if any of them even knew my name! but when I came to the university, I soon learned that these generalizations were too broad. Not all teachers are the same. In fact, I have found that most of the professors here at State fall into three categories: the positive teachers, the neutral teacher, and the negative teachers.

Dramatic Entrance

The dramatic entrance, is a type of introduction in which the author opens with narrative, descriptive, or dramatic example.

Model paragraph 7 ~~~~~

Roaches crawling all over the walls, all over the floor, pouring into the bedroom door, where can I run? I jump on top of the bed. They follow me up. Oh, my God, they're starting to fly all around me... "Oh, it was just a dream." Vile and repugnant are two of the best words used to describe the most despicable creature on earth, the roach. The bible portrays the Devil as a serpent in the Garden of Eden. However, I am sure that God meant the roach to play the part. My feeling for these creatures are of spasmodic disgust but especially fear.

The Relevant Quotation

An essay with this of introduction opens with a quotation by an authority on the topic or by someone else who says something relevant to what is discussed in the essay. You will also see writers begin with a famous quotation and then work that into their topic.

Model paragraph 8 ~~~~~

No two people are exactly alike, and my two older brothers, Nhan and Hung, are no exceptions. When I think of them, I think of Rudyard Kipling's words:

East is East

West is West

Never the twain shall meet

Even though they have the same parents, their considerable differences in looks, personality, and attitude toward life reflect the differences between Eastern and Western cultures.

► *Practice 1*

Study the following introductory paragraphs. Underline the word or words that appear in the first sentence and are restated in the thesis statement. The first one is done.

1. Almost everyone looks forward to the weekend. We often make our plans for the two free days well in advance. Too often, however, the best of our outdoor plans for the weekend are ruined here in Miami when the weather clouds up and it rains from Friday evening until Sunday afternoon. Fortunately, however, the weekend can be saved with a little bit of creativity. Three pleasant ways to spend time during a rainy weekend are to write letters to old friends, read a mystery novel and play cards.
2. When we were very young, we believed that parent could do no wrong. Indeed, they seems to us to be perfect human beings who knew all the answer to our problem and who could solve any problem that we had. However, as we grow older, we find that parents can make mistakes, too.
3. We live in an era where television is the national pastime. Since the invention of the television set, people have been spending more of their free time watching television than doing anything else. Many of the television addicts feel that this particular pastime is not a bad one; indeed, they argue that people can learn a great deal watching television. I am sure that if you look long and hard enough, you can probably find some programs that are educationally motivating. But, for the most part, I say that watching television is a waste of time.

--Pamela Maron

4. I used to have limp and unattractive hair until I found th perfect solution, a home permanent. A home permanent is very inexpensive in comparison to a beauty salon range from \$30 to \$60. On the other hand, a home permanent can be purchased from any supermarket for a little more than \$2. Besides being inexpensive, home permanents are very easy to give.

--Judith Catalanotto

5. When we see a blind person nearing a street corner or a door, many times we try to help by opening the door or taking the person's arm and guiding him or her across the street, and while we do that, some of us talk to the blind person in a loud voice, as if the blind person is not only helpless but also deaf. Rushing to help a blind person without asking if that person needs help and speaking loudly are just two of the

inappropriate ways people react to blind people. if you want to help a blind person whom you perceive as in need of help, you should bear in mind the following tips.

► *Practice 2*

One page 21 are the characteristics of a good introductory paragraph. Using these characteristics, evaluate the following introductory paragraphs. Does the paragraph introduce the topic? Does it indicate how the topic is going to be developed? Does it contain a thesis statement? Is it inviting? If one or more of these are missing, write the missing element in the space provided. Some of the paragraphs may be good introductory paragraphs.

1. We are all familiar with the image of the fat, jolly person, right? Unfortunately this is an inaccurate stereotype. Fat people are not always so happy.

-
2. It was a muggy day. I tried to find the bus for State University. Walking round every corner of Canal Street, I found the bus stop, finally. Here came the bus! Getting on the bus, I felt a little tense. Then State University came into view. "Oh, it's a real university," I said to myself. I asked myself if my decision was correct, but I couldn't answer my question. it took me three months to answer it. My decision was correct. I can show you why u decided to come to State University, so you will want to come here too. You will find that State University is a good university.

--*Nobutaka Matsuo*

-
3. I would like to tell you about my hometown, Hlatikulu, Swaziland. It is a small town of only 8,000 people. the main industries there are farming and working for the government, since it is the capital of the southern region.
-

4. Last year, my cousin, Julio, went to a bank to apply for a job. As you know, when you apply for a job, you must be ready to answer a lot of ambiguous questions. Some of questions that an interviewer may ask you include: educational background, previous job, and salaries you earned. The problem with Julio was that he wasn't prepared for the questions. The interviewer asked Julio a lot of thing that he couldn't answer. Because Julio wasn't prepared for the interview, he didn't get the job. If you do not want to be in that situation, you may want to follow these steps.

--Mauricio Rodriguez

5. There are many kinds of cashiers in the supermarket. I can classify them as efficient, average, and inefficient. I would like to tell you about each type of cashier.
-

► *Practice 3*

Evaluating Introductory Paragraph

Read the thesis statement and the four introductory paragraphs that follow. Decide whether or not each paragraph is a good introductory paragraph. If it is, check of which kind of introduction it is. If it isn't, check off the reason(s) why it isn't.

Thesis Statement: Heredity plays a more important role in a child's personality development than environment does.

1. A man meets a woman, and they fall in love. Then, they get married, buy a house, and settle down. After a while, they decide to have children. The woman gets pregnant, and nine months later a baby is born. In this case, *heredity plays a more important role in a child's personality development than environment does.*
 - a. Is this a good introductory paragraph?

- Yes No

b. If it is good, which kind of introduction is it?

- Anecdote(personal or third person) Historical
 Facts and/or statistic Funnel

c. If it isn't good, check off why.

- Some content not relevant to thesis statement Too short
 Too general
 Preview content of the body

2. As you will see below, there are lots of studies of twins and of adopted, children that indicate that genes are important in a child's development. When twins who separated at birth are reunited in adulthood, they find many likes and dislike in common. Also, when adopted children are reunited with their biological parents, they often find many similar personality attributes. I believe that *heredity plays a more important role in a child's personality development than environment does.*

a. Is this a good introductory paragraph?

- Yes No

b. If it is good, which kind of introduction is it?

- Anecdote(personal or third person) Historical
 Funnel

Facts and/or statistic

c. If it isn't good, check off why.

Some content not relevant to thesis statement

Too short

statement

Too general

Preview content of the body

3. I witness a child's birth recently and began thinking about what kind of person she would become. Would she be kind or cruel, generally happy or chronically depressed, a giver or a taker? I can predict that she will be a kind, generally happy giver because that's the way her sister is, despite her abusive parents. I also believe that *heredity plays a more important role in a child's personality development than environment does.*

a. Is this a good introductory paragraph?

Yes

No

b. If it is good, which kind of introduction is it?

Anecdote(personal or third person)

Historical

Facts and/or statistic

Funnel

c. If it isn't good, check off why.

Some content not relevant to thesis statement Too short

statement

Too general

Preview content of the body

4. Many people think that the environment that a child is raised in is important. I think *heredity plays a more important role in a child's personality development than environment does.*

a. Is this a good introductory paragraph?

Yes

No

b. If it is good, which kind of introduction is it?

Anecdote(personal or third person)

Historical

Facts and/or statistic

Funnel

c. If it isn't good, check off why.

Some content not relevant to thesis statement Too short

statement

Too general

Preview content of the body

► *Practice 4*

The following chart shows the number of Americans who have died in several wars. Write an introductory paragraph for the thesis statement using the statistics

from the table. Remember that the thesis statement goes the end of the introductory paragraphs.

Thesis Statement: the three basic causes for the participation of the United States in wars have been economic, ideological, and defensive.

Wars (US. Involvement)	Total Number of U.S. Soldier	Number of Combat Deaths	Percentage of Soldier Who Died
Revolutionary war (1775-1783)	250,000	6,824	2.7 %
Civil War (1861-1865)	2,213,363	140,414	6.3 %
World War I (1914-1918)	4,743,825	53,513	0.1 %
World War II (1941-1945)	16,353,659	292,131	1.7 %
Korean War (1950-1953)	5,764,143	33,629	0.9 %
Vietnam War (1961-1973)	8,744,000	47,321	0.5 %
Gulf War (1991)	500,000	149	<0.01 %

► *Practice 5*

Six thesis statements follow. Write an introductory paragraph for each.

1. My country has some of the most beautiful sight you will ever see.
2. Speaking in a foreign language can create some embarrassing misunderstandings.
3. Tuning up a car is not as difficult as some people think.
4. Watching television is not a waste of time.
5. Americans are crazy about their pets.
6. The New Year is one of the happiest occasions. (You may choose a favorite holiday in your country.)

CHAPTER VI

BODY PARAGRAPH

Body paragraph, which range in number on the typical student essay from about two to four, are the heart of the essay, for their function is to explain, illustrate, discuss, or prove the thesis statement. Keep in mind these point about the body paragraphs:

1. *Each body paragraph discusses one aspect of the main topic.* If, for example, you were asked to write a paper about the effects of smoking cigarettes on a person's health, then each paragraph would have as its topic an effect.
2. *The controlling idea in the body paragraph should echo the central idea in the thesis statement.* If your thesis statement about the effects of smoking cigarettes is "Cigarette smoking is a destructive habit," then the controlling idea in each paragraph should have something to do with the destructiveness of the effects.
3. *The body paragraph should have coherence and unity.* The order of your paragraphs should not be random. As you have seen in the last three chapters, there are various ways to order the sentence in a paragraph; similarly, there are various ways to order you paragraphs.

In Writing II you learned how to come up with a restricted topic sentence from your notes. The same technique can be used to arrive at a thesis statement; you need simply remember that the thesis statement is more general than a topic sentence. After all, each body paragraph does discuss an aspect of the main topic expressed in the thesis statement. Once you have decided on your paragraphs. These topics are, in essence, supporting points for your paragraphs. These topics are, in essence, supporting points for your thesis. Let's us say, for example, that you wanted to write about beautiful sights in your country—perhaps to persuade people to visit them or simply to inform you reader about your country. After you gave taken considerable notes on the topic, you might come up with this thesis statement: "My Country has some beautiful sights." The main topic of the essay is "sights in my country" and the central idea is "beautiful." The main topic then needs to be broken down into topics for paragraphs—perhaps two to four. Logically, the tpocs would be "sights," with one sight perhaps discussed per pargraph, and the controlling idea for each of these topic should be something akin to "beautiful," such as "charming," "lovely," "enchanted," "glorious," wtc. We could illustrate this breakdown as follows for an essay beautiful sights in Mexico.



Just how you break down your thesis into topics depends on your thesis statement. There are several principles for logically breaking down your thesis. You can break it into topics according to causes, effects (benefits, advantages, disadvantages, results), steps in a process, types (kinds, categories, classes), examples, points of comparison and contrast, and reasons; these are the basic principles, and those that we will cover in depth in this text. One way to break your thesis down logically into topics is to turn your thesis statement into a question, keeping in mind what your topic and central idea are. The answers to this question might help you come up with possible topics for your developmental paragraphs; they can also help you determine a strategy for organizing your essay. (These strategies, or patterns of organization, will be discussed in great detail in the subsequent chapters.) Here are some thesis statements and possible breakdowns into topics for the developmental paragraphs:

1. Thesis statement: My reasons for coming to State University center around the service it provides.

Question: What are those services?

Answer: A superior program in my major.
High quality academic resources.
Quality student services.
Recreational activities.

2. Thesis statement: In order to make a good impression at a job interview, you should prepare well for the interview.

Question: What are those services?

Answer: A superior program in my major.
High quality academic resources.
Quality student services.
Recreational activities.

3. Thesis statement: Watching television is not a waste of time.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUDING PARAGRAPH

PART OF A CONCLUDING PARAGRAPH

The last paragraph of your essay is, of course, the concluding paragraph. This paragraph has a very important function in your essay. Since it is the last paragraph to be read, you want your reader to leave with a clear understanding of what the point of your essay is.

A concluding paragraph consists of a Summary of the points made in your body paragraphs, a restatement of the thesis statement, or a final comment on your topic. You may choose one of these ways to end your essay, or you may choose two or three. The choice is yours as the writer.

A concluding paragraph should never introduce new information about the topic of the essay. New information should go in another body paragraph, not in a concluding paragraph.

Here are some points about conclusions.

1. *A conclusion can restate the main points (subtopics) discussed.* This restatement should be brief; after all, you have already discussed them at length.
2. *A conclusion can restate the thesis.* Generally, to avoid sounding repetitious, it is good idea to restate the thesis in different words. The restatement of the thesis is really a reassertion of its importance or validity.
3. *A conclusion should not, however, bring up a new topic.*

Summary

One way to end your essay is to summarize the main points in it. Read the following essay about homeless people. Notice the concluding paragraph.

Model paragraph 1 -----

Feeling Secure—Even without a Home

When you walk downtown in almost any large American city, you see many homeless people. They sit on the streets with their shopping carts full of their meager belongings and often ask for money. Do they make you nervous? Do they even scare you? The truth is that most homeless people do not want to be homeless, and they are afraid of the same things that you are. Homeless people, like everyone else, need basically three things to feel safe in their environment.

First, and most importantly, homeless people need to feel physical safety. For you and me, this feeling comes when we enter our apartment or house and lock the door behind us. For a homeless person, this feeling is a luxury. They may go to a shelter at nights but sometimes the people in the shelter can be dangerous, especially if they are mentally ill. Then, in the morning, they are kicked out of the shelter and forced to roam the streets. For these reasons, a lot of homeless people claim a certain bench or street corner as their own. They are trying to feel physically secure.

Second, homeless people need to have a dependable source of food. This is such a basic need that most of us don't even think about it, but for a homeless person, finding food can be a full-time job. There are places to go for meals that are usually run by local governments or churches, but there isn't enough food for everyone to have three nutritionally balanced meals a day. Getting one meal a day is considered good for a homeless person. Other food comes from scrounging through garbage or begging on the street. It's difficult to feel secure in your environment when you don't know where your next meal is coming from.

Finally, to feel safe, you need to know that if you get sick or injure yourself, you can get the medical treatment you need. In the United States, this is becoming increasingly difficult even for people who do have places to live but don't have a lot of money. It's almost impossible for a homeless person. It's true that homeless people can usually go to an emergency room in a hospital if they are gravely sick or injured, but some hospitals these days are turning away anyone who doesn't have health insurance. If the sickness or injury is not severe, there are some clinics for homeless people, but, again, the need far exceeds the availability.

In summary, the need to feel physically safe, the need for a dependable food source and the need for medical care when necessary are essential for all of us. The constant struggle to obtain these is why homeless people do not feel secure in their environment.

Meager: a little bit

To be kicked out of: to be told to leave

To scrounge: to carefully look for something, such as food or supplies

A shelter: a place where homeless people can sleep for a night

To roam: to walk around without direction

Gravely: seriously

To exceed: to go beyond

As you can see, the concluding paragraph in this essay mentions all the main ideas brought out in each of the supporting paragraphs of the essay. When you write a summary as a concluding paragraph, you must make sure that you include all the topics in the body paragraphs.

Restatement

An alternative to summary is a restatement of the idea of your thesis statement. Here is another concluding paragraph for the essay on homeless people.

Model paragraph 1 -----

In short, all people want to feel safe in their environment, and to do so require that you have these things. These are so easy to obtain that most of

us take them for granted. However, if you're homeless, getting the basics becomes more difficult and sometimes impossible.

Final Comment

Often, a concluding paragraph is most effective when you add a final comment a summary or a restatement or both. Look at yet another alternative to the original concluding paragraph for the essay on homeless people.

Model paragraph 2 ~~~~~

In conclusion, the next time you see homeless people, try to look beyond young and think about how insecure they must feel in their environment. They may not know where they can go that night to feel safe or what their next meal will be worried about getting sick, or they may already be sick and have no place to go. For them, life in this world is a day-to-day struggle to survive.

► *Practice*

Thesis statements, their supporting topic sentences, and conclusions follow. Study each conclusion to determine if it logically concludes. If the conclusion is not appropriate, write *not good* in the blank and write the reason it is not good in the space provided. If the conclusion is appropriate, simply write *logical* in the blank.

1. _____

Thesis Statement: watching television is not a waste of time.

- a. It is a valuable educational tool.
- b. It provides entertainment to cheer us up.
- c. It provides something our family can have in common to discuss.

Critics of television will continue to put down the “boob tube.” But, because of its educational value, and its provision of things we can discuss together, our family is going to continue watching television for a long time, and so should others. Indeed, watching television is a good way to spend one’s time.

2. _____

Thesis Statement: Communicating in a foreign language can create some embarrassing misunderstandings.

- a. Mispronouncing words can lead to real embarrassment.
- b. Misunderstanding what someone says to you can create amusing problems.
- c. Misusing vocabulary words really make you blush.

Everyone who speaks a foreign language is bound to have misunderstandings from time to time. What you need to do is go to the laboratory as often as you can to improve your language skills. The people there are very nice and they will help you with your grammar and pronunciation.

3. _____

Thesis Statement: Television commercials are entertaining.

- a. The Coca-Cola commercial is a good example of an entertaining commercial.
- b. The Chevrolet commercial is as good as any situation comedy.
- c. The Fritos commercial is particularly amusing.

If you do not have a television, you are certainly missing out on the fun of commercials. There are also a lot of entertaining programs to see. In addition, the news programs can keep you informed about the world. indeed, everyone should have a television set.

4. _____

Thesis Statement: My reasons for coming to State University center around the services it provides.

- a. State University offers a superior program in my major.
- b. In addition, the university has high quality academic resources.
- c. State also offers quality student services.
- d. The recreational activities make State even better.

The challenge of a diversified and excellent program, the academic resources, the student services, the recreational activities, and the low tuition are the reasons I decided to come to State University. I really think I made a wise decision. If you are looking for a quality education at a reasonable price, then consider State as the place to enroll.

5. _____

Thesis Statement: In order to make a good impression at a job interview, you should prepare well for the interview.

- a. The first thing you should do is plan your answers to the possible questions the interviewer might ask.
- b. Then you should carefully plan and prepare what you are going to wear.
- c. Finally you should make sure that you arrive on time.

As you can see, it is necessary to be well prepared for the job interview. Having the answer ready, being properly dressed, and being on time can help to make a good impression on the interviewer. If you follow these steps, you will find yourself sitting behind the desk at that coveted job in no time at all.