

A Lesson Plan

Lesson Type: Writing a paragraph

Grade Range: 5-9; but can be adapted to other grades.

Time required: Depending on the grade level and length of the period, two or three periods.

Resources needed: 4-6 pages with different titles/topics and an interesting introductory sentence starting each topic off and enough copies to give each student in the class one page.

Objectives:

1. To write paragraphs
2. Students will learn/reinforce the skill to write about one topic
3. The activity will reinforce the skill of writing in complete sentences.
4. Students will write a good deal, without seeming to do so and enjoy writing.
5. To read at their instructional level.

Procedures:

You will need to **group** students. Groups of four to six have worked best for me. For each group you will need **a different title/topic for each student**. The number of students may determine how many sentences each member in the group will write on each sheet.

Each **group** can get the same titles and sentences unless your students vary a great deal in readiness for this activity.

Each student in each group will write one sentence on the page in front of him/her and then pass it on for the next student to add a sentence. The pages are passed around until every student in the group has written a sentence on each page or however many sentences you wish them to write.

Instructions to the students:

1. Read a good paragraph to the class pointing out that all sentences speak to the topic, that the sentences are complete, follow a logical order and are interesting.
2. Tell students to read carefully the title and sentence on their sheet, and to add a sentence on the topic. That done they are to pass the paper to the next student in the group and receive another sheet that will now have two sentences on it. Read carefully all that is on the new sheet, add another sentence and then pass it on and so on.
3. **Reminders to students:** Your sentences should speak to the topics. Sentences must be complete sentences. Do **not use** inappropriate language.

When all in the group are finished:

1. Each student takes the page on which they started to write. Begin to analyze the paragraph. Check for spelling, correct grammar and complete sentences. Decide if a sentence should be deleted, because its thought is already expressed in another sentence or it does not speak to the topic. Decide if one or more sentences should be added for clarity and interest?
2. Begin to rewrite or type the paragraph.
3. Assign for homework to finish number one and two above.

Follow-up lessons

1. Use a few of the paragraphs to analyze and to reinforce the skill of editing and analyzing.
2. Have students read their paragraph and point out interesting features of it.
3. Ask students to choose a topic, think of an interesting title and write a paragraph or choose a news item that had made an impression on them and ask them to write about it.
4. Introduce the concepts of introductory and ending sentences.