

SUPPORTING IDEAS PARAGRAPH WRITING

RATE THE SUPPORTING *i d e a s*

Name: _____

Supporting ideas should...

- Add information to or clarify the topic sentence idea
- Help the reader better understand the topic sentence
- Prove that the topic sentence is accurate

Read the topic sentence. Then, read the supporting ideas. If the supporting idea provides extra information about the topic sentence and is related to it, add a **+** sign on the line. If not, add a **-** sign.

Topic Sentence: *Elephants are brilliant animals.*

Supporting Idea 1: One sign that elephants are intelligent is that

PARAGRAPH WRITING: SUPPORTING IDEAS SORT

Name: _____

TOPIC SENTENCE: While some people may think bats are creepy, they are actually very helpful creatures.

LET'S TALK SUPPORTING IDEAS!

Read the topic sentence. Then, look at the supporting idea. Remember that supporting ideas explain, describe, or clarify the topic sentence. Use the following abbreviations to rate each supporting idea.

G = Good D = Doesn't match the topic sentence well

T = Too similar to the topic sentence

TOPIC SENTENCE	SUPPORTING IDEA	RATING
1. Although no one knows if the Bigfoot legend is real, some claim to have proof.	In 1980, a footprint measuring almost 18 inches (46 cm) was found in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, and some thought it was a sign of Bigfoot.	
2. Hammerhead sharks are interesting animals.	The great white shark is one of the most aggressive sharks.	
3. Potatoes are a popular vegetable because they can be cooked in a variety of ways.	Potatoes can be prepared in many ways.	
4. A number of inventions have made household chores easier.	For example, the first electric washing machine was invented in 1908.	
5. My favorite sports include basketball, football, and baseball.	At school, kickball is one of my favorite games.	

D **T** **G** **D** **T**

G

D

T

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CAN YOU IDENTIFY IT?

EXAMPLE

Read each set of sentences. Identify each type of sentence using the abbreviations below:
Topic Sentence = T Supporting Ideas = S

Remember... Topic sentences are BIG ideas. The whole paragraph describes and explains the topic sentence. Supporting ideas are medium ideas. They are smaller than topic sentences because they describe one part of the topic sentence idea.

ONE OF THESE THINGS IS NOT LIKE THE OTHER

EXAMPLE

When writing a paragraph, all three supporting ideas should directly relate to the topic sentence, but they should also be related to each other in a clear way.

When the supporting ideas are related to each other, we call them parallel.

For example, if a paragraph is about painting (let's imagine painting as a broad topic), here are some possibilities for supporting idea topics:

THE BIG PICTURE - CONCEPT MAP: PARAGRAPH STRUCTURE

Most paragraphs follow this structure. They begin with a topic sentence, which is the main idea of the paragraph. They have three supporting ideas that clarify or prove the topic sentence. Each supporting idea has 1 - 3 details to describe and explain it. The paragraph ends with a conclusion sentence that reinforces the idea in the topic sentence.

TOPIC SENTENCE

SUPPORTING IDEA 1



3RD - 6TH GRADES

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2 FLEX FORMATS

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JUST PRINT AND GO!

PARAGRAPH EXAMPLE

A paragraph has four main parts:

- Topic Sentence
- Three Supporting Ideas
- Details for Each Supporting Idea
- Conclusion Sentence

PARAGRAPH EXAMPLE:

Topic Sentence	Frozen treats are popular in many countries. Mochi is a frozen Japanese dessert. The outer layer is made of rice dough and cream. Gelato is popular in Italy. It is smooth and creamy. Frozen treats are popular in India and other countries. No matter where you go, there's a special frozen treat to enjoy!
Supporting Ideas and Details	
Conclusion Sentence	

Which three frozen treats make up supporting idea sentences in yellow?
After each frozen dessert is mentioned, there is a supporting idea sentence. What are these descriptions?

CAN YOU IDENTIFY IT?

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SENTENCE SET 1:

1. ___ Apples to Apples is one game I enjoy.
2. ___ My favorite board games are Monopoly, Apples to Apples, and Chess.
3. ___ It's fun to play Monopoly with my family.
4. ___ My best friend taught me to play Chess.

SENTENCE SET 2:

1. ___ The Eiffel Tower is one of the most well-known sites in Paris.
2. ___ The Louvre is one of the largest museums in the world.
3. ___ The Palace of Versailles is beautiful and full of history.
4. ___ Paris is filled with amazing places to visit.

SENTENCE SET 3:

1. ___ Hurricanes can be dangerous for many reasons.
2. ___ Storm surges bring ocean water onto land, causing flooding.
3. ___ Hurricane winds can damage or destroy homes and buildings.
4. ___ Some hurricanes cause tornadoes too.

SENTENCE SET 4:

1. ___ The restaurant is decorated beautifully.
2. ___ P. F. Chang's is one of my family's favorite restaurants for three reasons.
3. ___ The people who work there are friendly and attentive.
4. ___ The best part of P. F. Chang's is the delicious food.

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PARAGRAPH WRITING: SUPPORTING IDEAS SORT

Name: _____

TOPIC SENTENCE: While some people may think bats are creepy, they are actually very helpful creatures.

DETAILS: Plants are eaten when some of bats eat fruits.	DETAILS: Nectar-eating bats spread pollen from plant to plant, helping more plants grow.	
Bats are beneficial animals.		

SUPPORTING IDEA: Bats play an important role in spreading seeds.

SUPPORTING IDEA: Many bats feast on insects every night.

Match each set of details by cutting and gluing the correct set of details above.



2 FLEX FORMATS

NO PREP DIGITAL!

- GOOGLE SLIDES ACTIVITIES
 - GOOGLE FORMS SORT
- EASY TO SHARE WITH STUDENTS!

6 Rate the Supporting Ideas

File Edit View Insert Format Slide Arrange Tools Extensions Help

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1 LET'S TALK SUPPORTING IDEAS!

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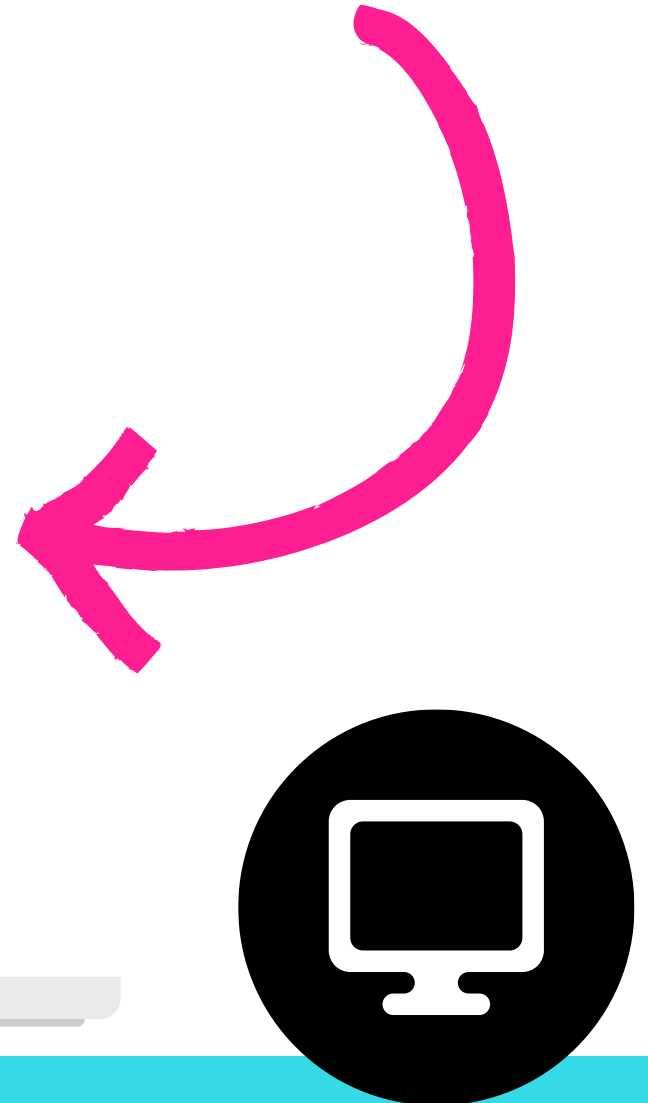
DRAG AND DROP THE LETTERS TO SHOW YOUR ANSWERS.

G D T G D T

G
D
T

2 SUPPORTING IDEAS TO PONDER

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VISUAL REFERENCES

SUPER SIMPLE - 8 POSTERS

PRINT OR CLICK AND SEND!

REMINDE YOUR STUDENTS ABOUT

PARAGRAPH CONCEPTS!



Paragraph Color Coding

- Topic Sentence
- Supporting
- Details
- Conclusion Sentence

Details

Sentences with

Supporting Ideas

Sentences with facts, reasons, or details that support the topic of the paragraph

Parallel Ideas

All supporting ideas should go together, be related, or be similar in some way

The Magical Number Three

There are usually three supporting ideas for each paragraph



ASK THE EXPERTS

**"I'D DEFINITELY
RECOMMEND IT!"**

– KATELIN, 4TH GRADE TEACHER

**"THE CONTENT IS
INTERESTING AND
ENGAGING FOR THE KIDS!"**

– GABRIELA, 4TH GRADE TEACHER

**"SO HELPFUL FOR
MY CLASSROOM!"**

– SAMANTHA, 5TH GRADE TEACHER

SUPPORTING IDEAS FAQ

Which classrooms would benefit from a Supporting Ideas in Paragraph Writing Unit like this?

This Supporting Ideas in Paragraph Writing Unit is for you **if your writing curriculum is lacking** when it comes to focused, **explicit writing instruction** and practice. If you'd like to **stop endlessly searching for resources** to help improve your students' writing and are looking for an organized, **step-by-step** way to teach paragraph writing, this resource is for you.

What age is best suited for this Supporting Ideas Unit?

This Supporting Ideas Unit **works well with 3rd - 6th grade students**, but it can also be used with **older students needing extra practice**. **In fact, many middle school and high school students have had success using it.** It can also be used as **enrichment for younger students**. Teachers, homeschool educators, and tutors have used the materials successfully.

How can this resource be used in my classroom?

Many teachers will use this writing unit in their **daily writing lessons**. There are **whole class materials** as well as activities that can be completed **independently or for partner practice**.

WHO IS TTND?

At The Teacher Next Door, we know that you strive to be an effective writing teacher while maintaining a healthy work-life balance. In order to do that, you need resources that are impactful, yet simple. The problem is that most writing resources and curriculums out there are far from simple. The pages upon pages of daily lesson plans are just plain overwhelming. We believe teachers should be living their lives outside the classroom, and not spending hours lesson planning and searching for resources.

Now, more than ever, teachers need space to be themselves which is why we create and support teachers with timesaving tips and standards-aligned resources.

We can't wait to help you get started.

A NOTE ABOUT OUR CEO AND FOUNDER: Jenn Larson is the creator and founder of The Teacher Next Door. With over 20 years of experience in the classroom and a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction, Jenn specializes in creating resources for upper elementary students. Her goal is to support teachers by providing ready-to-use resources that target standards and help students grow in amazing ways.

REACH OUT AT: contact@the-teacher-next-door.com



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