

## Structuring Paragraphs

Use this worksheet to practice what is discussed in

- **Information Sheet 10: Structuring Paragraphs.**

**Task 1:** Underline the topic sentence in the following paragraph:

In recent years, the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere has dramatically escalated. Before the Industrial Revolution, atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> fluctuated between about 180 parts per million (ppm) during ice ages and 280 ppm during interglacial warm periods. However, since the Industrial Revolution, the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> has increased 100 times faster than the increase when the last ice age ended.

Adapted from: <https://www.livescience.com/37821-greenhouse-gases.html>

**Task 2:** Write a good topic sentence for the following paragraph

These forms of tourism include ecological tourism (ecotourism), green tourism, soft, rural tourism and agrotourism, community tourism, solidarity and responsible tourism. According to some specialists, only tourism in natural reservations or national parks is considered to be ecological. A larger concept of ecological tourism refers to responsible travel developed in natural spaces that contributes to environment protection and the improvement and wellbeing of local populations. Equitable tourism is a form of sustainable tourism aiming at applying the principles of equitable commerce, respecting a series of criteria, that focus on respect of the residents and their life style, as well as at sustainability of tourism progress for local communities. Solidarity tourism is about establishing a dialog, solidarity relationship between tourists and their hosts.

Adapted from: Juganaru, I-D., Juganaru, M., Anghel, A. 2008. Sustainable tourism types. *Annals of University of Craiova - Economic Sciences Series* 2/23, 797-804.

**Task 3:** The following paragraph contains irrelevant sentences. Can you identify which sentence(s) are not connected to the paragraph's focus?

There are several important elements to writing a good paragraph. First, there should be a topic sentence, sometimes called a focus sentence, containing the main idea of the paragraph. Second, the paragraph should be unified around this main idea with supporting sentences. In academic writing, these supporting sentences include definitions, examples, data, or comments about an idea, but without introducing any new concepts. Some writers find that creating an outline helps to clarify ideas. An outline is a helpful tool for a writer as well as a useful way to organize ideas. A reverse outline on the other hand, helps the writer identify the structure in an already written text. Third, the paragraph should be cohesive. Cohesion can be achieved through transition words, repetition of a key noun or phrase, and consistent verb tense. Finally, some paragraphs end with a concluding sentence that summarizes the main idea of the paragraph.



### Answer to Task 1

**In recent years, the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere has dramatically escalated.**

Before the Industrial Revolution, atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> fluctuated between about 180 parts per million (ppm) during ice ages and 280 ppm during interglacial warm periods. However, since the Industrial Revolution, the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> has increased 100 times faster than the increase when the last ice age ended.

### Answer to Task 2

There are obviously other ways to begin this paragraph, but the main thing to remember is that the topic sentence should alert the reader to the focus of the paragraph.

- ***Numerous forms of tourism can be identified as sustainable.***

An alternative topic sentence could be:

- ***The literature refers to eight different forms of sustainable tourism.***

### Answer to Task 3

The irrelevant sentences in the paragraph have been crossed out. Readers can be confused if the writer digresses from the main idea in a paragraph.

There are several important elements to writing a good paragraph. First, there should be a topic sentence, sometimes called a focus sentence, containing the main idea of the paragraph. Second, the paragraph should be unified around this main idea with supporting sentences. In academic writing, these supporting sentences include definitions, examples, data, or comments about an idea, but without introducing any new concepts. ~~Some writers find that creating an outline helps to clarify ideas. An outline is a helpful tool for a writer as well as a useful way to organize ideas. A reverse outline on the other hand, helps the writer identify the structure in an already written text.~~ Third, the paragraph should be cohesive. Cohesion can be achieved through transition words, repetition of a key noun or phrase, and consistent verb tense. Finally, some paragraphs end with a concluding sentence that summarizes the main idea of the paragraph.

*If you wish to practice creating flow and cohesion in a paragraph, see [Worksheet 7 – Improving Cohesion in Your Text](#)*

