

Important Concepts . . .

Preview Review



Language Arts

Grade 7

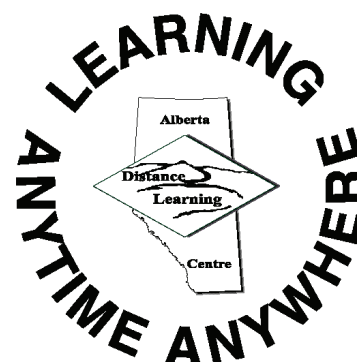
W1 - Lesson 4: Writing Paragraphs

Important Concepts of Grade 7 Language Arts	Materials Required
W1 - Lesson 1 Communication Skills	Textbooks
W1 - Lesson 2 Sentence Structure	<i>ResourceLines 7/8</i>
W1 - Lesson 3 Punctuation Skills	<i>SightLines 7</i>
W1 - Lesson 4 Writing Paragraphs	
W1 - Quiz	
W2 - Lesson 1 What's a Short Story?	
W2 - Lesson 2 Short Story Analysis	
W2 - Lesson 3 Literary Techniques	
W2 - Lesson 4 Essays	
W2 - Quiz	
W3 - Lesson 1 Poetic Structure	
W3 - Lesson 2 Forms of Poetry	
W3 - Lesson 3 Letters	
W3 - Lesson 4 Writing Poetry About Letters	
W3 - Quiz	

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Preview/Review W1 - Lesson 4

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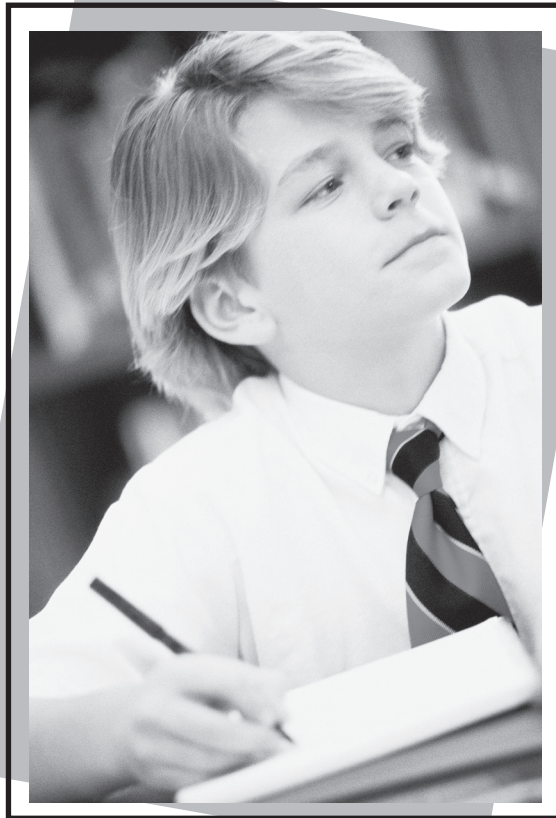
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Preview/Review Concepts for Grade Seven Language Arts



***W1 - Lesson 4:
Writing Paragraphs***

OBJECTIVES

By the end of this lesson, you should

- recognize and write a topic sentence
- understand the structure of a paragraph
- recognize a narrative, descriptive or expository paragraph
- write supporting sentences
- write concluding sentences
- use metaphors and similes to enhance writing

GLOSSARY

Refer to *ResourceLines* 7/8

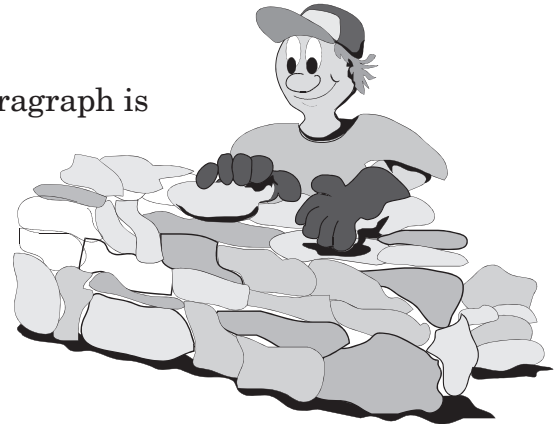
metaphor – a comparison of two things saying one is another (page 62)

simile – a comparison of two things that says one is *as* or *like* another (page 62)

supporting sentences – sentences that help to explain the main idea of a paragraph by supplying important and logical details (page 83)

W1 - Lesson 4: Writing Paragraphs

Paragraphs are the building blocks of writing. A paragraph is a group of sentences that develops a main idea. The beginning of a paragraph signals that a new idea will be introduced, a new voice will speak, or the main idea of the previous paragraph will be expanded.



A paragraph has three main parts:

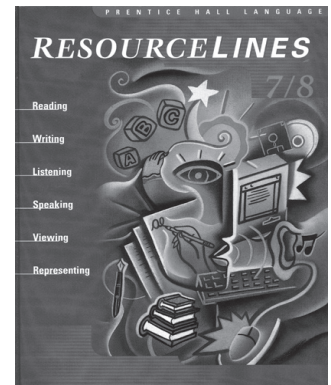
1. A main idea expressed in a topic sentence
2. One or more supporting sentences that develop the idea with details, facts, reasons, or examples
3. A closing sentence that signals completion of the thought and reinforces the main idea

An effective paragraph has organization, unity, and coherence.

Organization allows for orderly development of the main idea. (See pages 84 and 85 of *ResourceLines 7/8* for examples.)

Unity means all the sentences are focused on the main idea. (See pages 85 and 86 of *ResourceLines 7/8* for examples.)

Coherence provides smooth connections between the sentences. (See page 86 of *ResourceLines 7/8* for examples.)



Types of Paragraphs

Paragraphs are of three basic types: narrative, descriptive, and expository.

Narrative – tells a story or relates an event
(Refer to *ResourceLines 7/8* pages 87 and 88)

Descriptive – describes a person, place, or thing as vividly as possible
(Refer to *ResourceLines 7/8* pages 87)

Expository – explains something; may also be called explanatory or instructive
(Refer to *ResourceLines 7/8* pages 88 and 89)



Read the paragraph at the top of page 87 of *ResourceLines 7/8* for an example of a descriptive paragraph. The goal is to paint a word picture of something so the reader can see the image in his or her mind.

Paragraph Assignment

Write a **descriptive paragraph** about either the photograph on page 271 or the painting on page 166 of *Sightlines* 7.

Use your viewing skills to gather details for the paragraph. A descriptive paragraph should help the reader see, hear, and sense things that bring the subject to life.

Work through the following steps in writing a descriptive paragraph.



Step 1:

Brainstorm words and phrases to describe

- how the visual looks
- how it makes you feel
- sounds or smells that may be associated with the scene

Step 2:

Choose the most descriptive words and phrases from your list and write similes and metaphors to describe them. Read about **similes** and **metaphors** on page 62 of *ResourceLines* 7/8.

Step 3:

Choose the best simile or metaphor and use it to write a **topic sentence** for your paragraph.

Step 4:

Choose the most descriptive details to include in **two or three supporting sentences**. Try to build on your original simile or metaphor. Recalling the way in which Margaret Bunel Edwards in the short story “Ride the Dark Horse” creates an extended metaphor to compare the rapids to a galloping, bucking horse may be helpful. If you have not read this story, you might want to skim it now or read the excerpt. Check *SightLines* 7, pages 102 to 108. The excerpt is on page 107, “And then I was . . .”



Step 5:

Write a **concluding sentence** to sum up the main **feeling** of the visual.

Now, write the final draft of your paragraph in the space provided. Remember to edit your work so it is free of errors.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Evaluate your paragraph using the chart that follows. Then read your paragraph to someone and ask him or her to visualize the scene as you read. Ask your listener to evaluate your descriptive paragraph using the chart.

Composing	
Okay	Needs Improvement
<input type="checkbox"/> You wrote on the assigned topic. <input type="checkbox"/> You presented a clear main idea. <input type="checkbox"/> You gave enough details to support the main idea. <input type="checkbox"/> You organized your ideas in a logical order.	<input type="checkbox"/> You did not write on the assigned topic. <input type="checkbox"/> Your central idea is not clear. <input type="checkbox"/> Your details are vague or minimal. <input type="checkbox"/> Your ideas are repeated or show gaps.
Style/Audience Awareness	
Okay	Needs Improvement
<input type="checkbox"/> You wrote with your audience in mind. <input type="checkbox"/> You used vocabulary (words) that expressed your meaning well. <input type="checkbox"/> You used sentences that made your main idea interesting to your audience. <input type="checkbox"/> Your voice (or personality that shows in your writing) was clear and interesting.	<input type="checkbox"/> You wrote without an audience in mind. <input type="checkbox"/> Your vocabulary is weak and does not express your meaning well. <input type="checkbox"/> Your sentences are mostly simple. <input type="checkbox"/> Your voice (or personality that shows in your writing) is not strong enough to make your writing as interesting as it could be.
Sentence Formation	
Okay	Needs Improvement
<input type="checkbox"/> For the most part, you wrote complete and correct sentences.	<input type="checkbox"/> Your composition contains run-ons and/or sentence fragments.
Usage	
Okay	Needs Improvement
<input type="checkbox"/> For the most part, you wrote using appropriate subject-verb agreement, verb tenses, word meaning, and word endings.	<input type="checkbox"/> Your composition contains a pattern of errors in subject-verb agreement, verb tenses, word meaning, and/or word endings.
Mechanics	
Okay	Needs Improvement
<input type="checkbox"/> For the most part, you wrote using correct punctuation and capitalization.	<input type="checkbox"/> Your composition contains many errors in punctuation and/or capitalization.
Spelling	
Okay	Needs Improvement
<input type="checkbox"/> For the most part, you wrote using correct spelling.	<input type="checkbox"/> Your composition contains many spelling errors.

Extra Practice

Below is a very basic paragraph. Re-write and enhance it, using literary devices and descriptive language that enable the reader to create a picture in his or her mind. You might also want to use a variety of sentence starters.

It was a sunny day. A breeze was blowing. A stream flowed through the meadow. There were a lot of flowers in the meadow. A doe and her fawn walked across the meadow. A meadowlark sat on a fence post and sang.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Evaluate your paragraph using the chart that follows. Then, read your paragraph to someone and ask your listener to visualize the scene as you read. Ask your listener to evaluate your descriptive paragraph using the chart.



Composing	
Okay	Needs Improvement
<input type="checkbox"/> You wrote on the assigned topic. <input type="checkbox"/> You presented a clear main idea. <input type="checkbox"/> You gave enough details to support the main idea. <input type="checkbox"/> You organized your ideas in a logical order.	<input type="checkbox"/> You did not write on the assigned topic. <input type="checkbox"/> Your central idea is not clear. <input type="checkbox"/> Your details are vague or minimal. <input type="checkbox"/> Your ideas are repeated or show gaps.
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LEARNING LOG

Reflect on and record your learning process for this lesson.

1. What do I understand about paragraph writing now?

2. What aspects of writing paragraphs do I need to keep working on?

You should now be able to meet all the objectives listed at the beginning of the lesson. Review the list to see if there is anything you need to spend more time on.

Teacher's Comments: _____
