

# Writing Vocabulary: Use these key words to talk about your writing

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## Paragraphs

*Sentences that work together to organize your ideas into chunks*

Paragraphs are a group of sentences set apart from others (usually with white space or indentation) that work together to support one main idea. They are like mini-essays that support your topic sentence the way a thesis statement supports the essay as a whole.

## Thesis Statement

*The main idea of your written assignment*

The thesis statement provides a focus to your writing. It might make a claim, highlight a feature, provide a condition, or take a position on an issue (VanderMey, Meyers, Van Rys, & Sebranek, 2012).

## Topic Sentence

*The main idea of your paragraph*

The topic sentence states the main point of the paragraph. It usually introduces the paragraph and describes its purpose or connection back to the rest of the writing assignment.

## Transitions

*The connecting words and phrases within and between your paragraphs*

Transitions show how information in your writing assignment fits together. They show relationships between different parts and help the reader anticipate what will come next.

## Introduction

*The first statements that shape your first impression*

Introductions set up your writing assignment. They state the main purpose or topic and often outline the main ideas your writing assignment will discuss. They tell your reader what they should expect in the rest of the paper.

## Conclusion

*The final statements that shape your last impression*

Conclusions wrap up your paper and often restate the main point or summarize your main ideas. They state the main take-aways for the reader.

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VanderMey, R., Meyer, V., VanRys, J., & Sebranek, P. (2012). *The college writer: A guide to thinking, writing, and researching* (4 ed.). Boston, MA: Cengage Learning