

WRITING A PARAGRAPH EXERCISES

LEARNING TARGET

Students will be able to write a coherent paragraph that contains a topic sentence and support that topic sentence with relevant evidence.

STANDARDS ADDRESSED

ELA.9-10.W.1: Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence

ELA.9-10.W.4: Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

TASK

Using the **Writing a Paragraph PowerPoint**, please complete the following exercises.

EXERCISE 1

In the box below, rewrite the paragraph about Chicago style pizza (from the PowerPoint) following the basic rules of writing a paragraph.

***Note:** Make note of what was wrong with the paragraph before you start writing. The only part of the old paragraph you should use is the topic sentence.*

Chicago style pizza is way better than New York style pizza.

EXERCISE 2

Now I want you to compose an original paragraph about your favorite movie.

- Use the “elements of a paragraph” chart on the **Writing a Paragraph PowerPoint** to guide you as you write your paragraph.
- I will grade this paragraph based on its unity, coherence, topic sentence, and if it is adequately developed and supported with relevant points.
- You will not be able to start the essay writing part of boot camp until you have shown you can write a paragraph according to the standards outlined in this presentation.

	5	4	3	2	1
Topic Sentence	The paragraph contains a correctly-placed topic sentence. The topic sentence summarizes the paragraph's main idea and utilizes excellent grammar and sentence mechanics.	The paragraph contains a correctly-placed topic sentence that mostly summarizes the paragraph's main idea and utilizes appropriate grammar and sentence mechanics.	The paragraph contains a topic sentence that somewhat summarizes the paragraph's main idea and somewhat utilizes appropriate grammar and sentence mechanics.	The paragraph contains a topic sentence that does not summarize the paragraph's main idea and does not utilize appropriate grammar or sentence mechanics.	The topic sentence is missing or the topic sentence does not summarize the paragraph's main idea.
Unity	All parts of the paragraph focus on one idea.	Most of the paragraph focuses one idea. No more than one sentence is off topic.	The paragraph somewhat focuses on one idea, but some sentences are off topic.	The paragraph does not focus on one idea and several sentences are off topic.	None of the sentences in the paragraph support the main idea.
Coherence	The paragraph is extremely coherent and utilizes effective logical and verbal bridges.	The paragraph is coherent and utilizes logical and verbal bridges.	The paragraph is somewhat coherent and uses some logical and verbal bridges.	The paragraph is not coherent and does not contain logical and verbal bridges.	The paragraph is completely incoherent.
Adequate Development	The paragraph is fully-developed and the topic sentence is well-supported with relevant evidence, etc.	The paragraph is developed and the topic sentence is supported with relevant evidence, etc.	The paragraph is somewhat developed and the topic sentence is somewhat supported with somewhat relevant evidence, etc.	The paragraph is poorly developed and the topic sentence is not supported with relevant evidence, etc.	The paragraph is not developed.
Total Points					

Final Grade: ____/20