

# Hamburger Smash

## How to Write a Paragraph

### Introduction

- Show children a gummy hamburger candy, a real hamburger, or a picture of a hamburger
- Ask children, what items are typically in a hamburger? Focus on the facts that there are two buns with different items inside
- Why is a bun important? Explain that while a hamburger has lots of yummy things inside that add flavor and interest, a bun is important because **it holds the hamburger together**. Without the bun, your hamburger falls apart.
- When we write and share about a topic or idea, often it is very similar to a hamburger. We often need a bun on top and bottom to hold our ideas together. This is called a **paragraph**.

*(Show picture of hamburger)*

- *Show hamburger handout as you discuss the parts of paragraph.*
- Explain a **paragraph is a group of sentences developing one main idea, or topic**.
- Just like the meat, or main body of a hamburger, is held in place by the top and bottom bun, a paragraph is held together by the topic (top) and concluding (bottom) sentence. Good paragraphs are arranged and developed according to a definite plan.
- The topic sentence tells the reader what to expect and what you are going to talk about.
- All details, or development, are then focused on that topic. This makes the paragraph is easier to follow, and helps the reader better understand why the details are **relevant**.
- The concluding sentence adds closure, alerting the reader that the paragraph is done and reminding the reader of the paragraph's point.

**Activity 1:** Now we are going to play a game called hamburger smash. I am going to share some paragraphs and you have to decide if it has a good top and bottom bun holding it together. If the paragraph, or hamburger is not held together well, then we are going to smash the gummy hamburger.

**Activity 2:** Now, I am going to give you a bunch of strips of paper and I want you to see if you can arrange them into three solid “hamburgers” or paragraphs.

**Activity 3:** Now it's your turn to Write your own hamburger. Pick a topic that interests you and write something to share in the “Kid Magazine. (Show some examples of interesting paragraphs they could write for a magazine, either bring magazines, or books about countries, dinosaurs, etc. that have good summaries).

### Possible Topics:

*Great inventors*

*National Parks*

*Study skills*

*Favorite songs*

*Places to shop*

*Musical instruments*

*Holidays*

*Sports*

*Foods I like to eat*

*Optional activity - practice outlining paragraphs. Note that when you outline a paragraph, the first and last Roman numeral should identify the topic sentence and the concluding sentence. The Roman numerals in between should each represent supporting details. After you have outlined the paragraph, compare your outline to the same below.*

# Writing a Paragraph

## Topic Sentence

The topic sentence states the main idea and is usually the first sentence.

## Development

The body of the paragraph contains details supporting the topic sentence. Three common ways of developing paragraphs include:

- 1) Giving examples
- 2) Telling incidents
- 3) Providing reasons

A good paragraph has **unity**. Unity means that every sentence in the paragraph develops the idea stated in the topic sentence. Any sentence that does not support the topic sentence should be removed from the paragraph.

## Concluding Sentence

The concluding, or summarizing sentence, is used at the end of a paragraph. It restates the topic sentence in different words.

## Example A

Is this a good paragraph?

The Wild West was eventually tamed by law officers that risked their lives to bring peace and order.

Wyatt Earp is just one example of this. Earp is best remembered for the stand he and his brothers made against the Clanton gang at the O.K. Corral and for taming towns such as Tombstone, Arizona.

Another legendary lawman was Bat Masterson. Masterson served as sheriff of Ford County, Kansas, and assisted Wyatt Earp in ridding Tombstone and other towns of outlaws.

Perhaps the most celebrated peace officer of the time though was Wild Bill Hickok. Hickok was an amazing gunfighter and his bravery and determination put an end to lawlessness in many rough Kansas towns.

The peace officers who tamed the wildness of the Old West have become legends and should continue to be remembered for the contributions they made in bringing order to the land.

## Example B

Is this a good paragraph?

Jack loved to climb trees.

One day Jack decided he wanted to go to the moon.

He ate a cupcake.

Tom sat on his mother's lap.

Ann's brother smashed her pancake on her head. She was sad.

## Example C

Is this a good paragraph?

Jack and Jill used to love exploring hills, but soon learned the importance of caution.

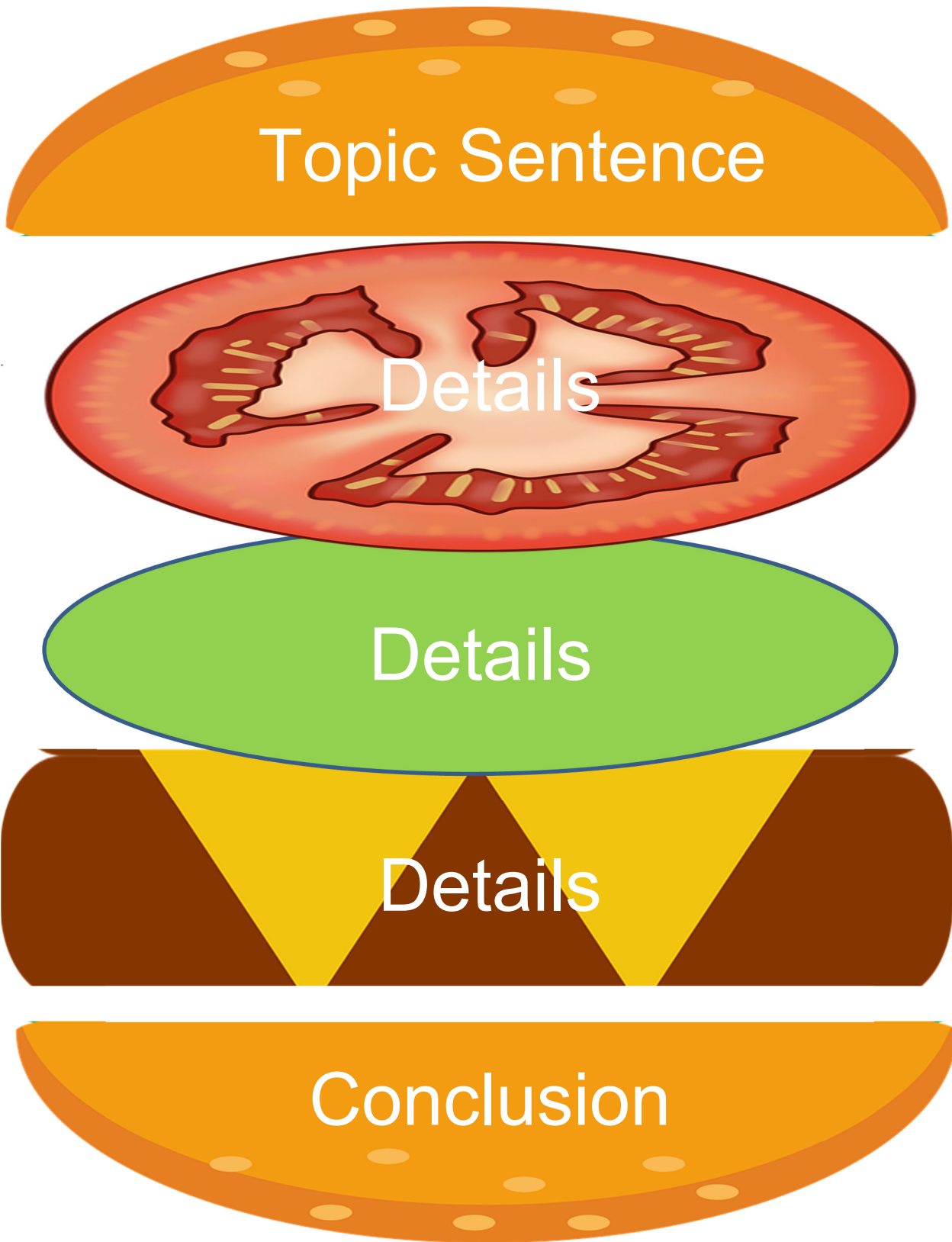
One day, while exploring a hillside, Jack saw a tree growing over the edge of the hill and climbed on top of it.

The tree broke under Jack's weight and he fell down, breaking his crown.

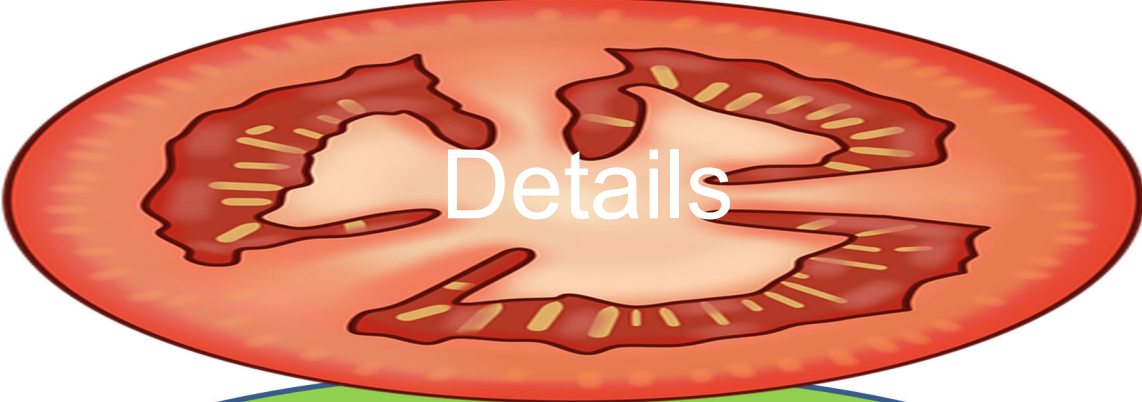
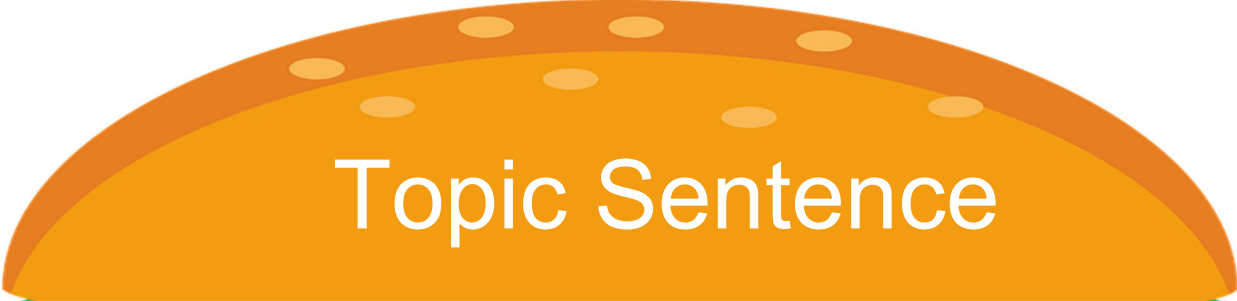
Jill tried to catch Jack, but she ended up tumbling down the steep hill after him.

Jack and Jill still love to explore hills, but now they are more careful, especially when climbing trees.

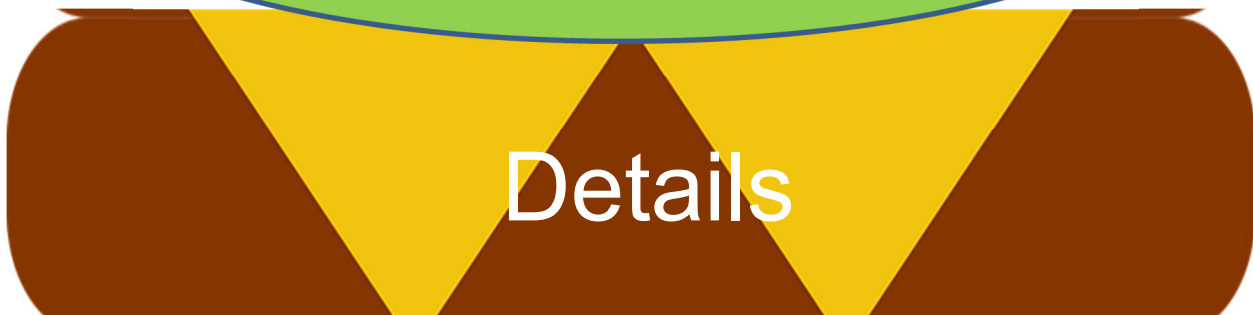
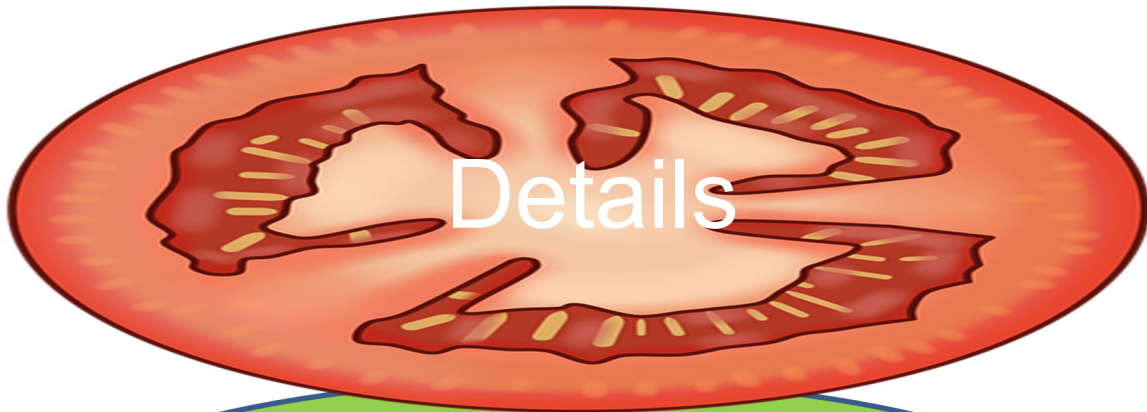
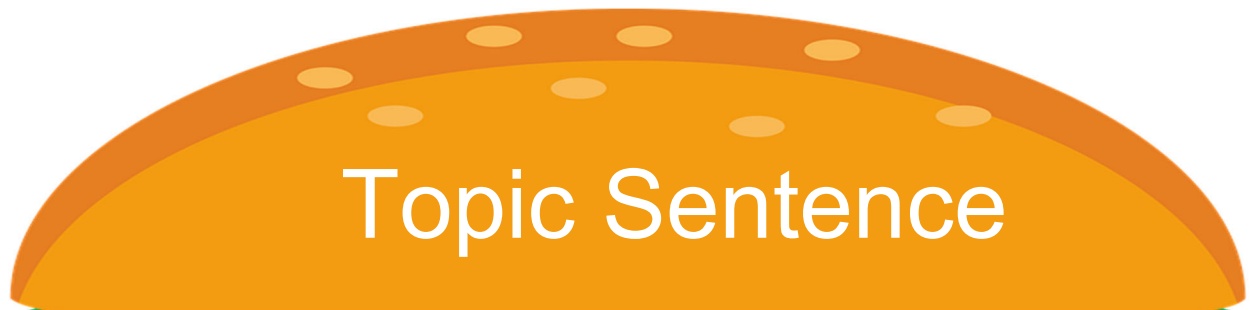
# Organize Paper Slips into a Paragraph



# Organize Papers into a 2<sup>nd</sup> Paragraph



# Organize Papers into a 3<sup>rd</sup> Paragraph





The average porcupine has over 30,000 quills that the mammal uses for several different purposes.

The quills are hollow inside and filled with air, which allows the porcupine to float as if it had a life jacket on.

Although the porcupine is normally not aggressive, if confronted, the porcupine will also use its quills to attack enemies.

The barbed quills lodge in an enemy's skin and are difficult to remove. The resulting wounds from the quills can injure and even kill predators.

The porcupine's quills are a useful tool, but one that is better not to come in contact with.

The continent of Africa is home to some of the most amazing geography in the world.

Africa has the longest river in the world, The Nile. The Nile flows through Egypt, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi, Uganda, Sudan, Ethiopia, and South Sudan.

Victoria Falls in Africa is considered the largest curtain waterfall in the world, meaning that it has the largest sheet of falling water.

Africa also has huge deserts. The Sahara Desert in Northern Africa is the largest hot desert in the world.

Africa is truly an amazing continent with natural wonders all should see.

While there are many unknown things about space, some of the facts we *do* know are mind blowing.

Space is completely silent because there is no atmosphere or medium for sound to travel in.

Space may be silent, but it is not empty. There are more stars in just our universe than there are grains of sand on all the beaches of Earth.

The sun is one such star, but it is so massive that 1.3 million earths could fit in the sun. The sun accounts for 99% of the mass in our solar system.

Space has many mysteries, but luckily some of those mysteries have now been solved.

## Make a Hamburger to Share with Friends

*Share some thoughts about a topic by making a “hamburger.” Just like the meat, or main body of a hamburger, is held in place by the top and bottom bun, a paragraph is held together by the topic (top) and concluding (bottom) sentence. Good paragraphs are arranged and developed according to a definite plan. The topic sentence tells the reader what to expect by explaining the main idea. All details are then focused on that topic, so the paragraph is easier to follow, and the reader is able to better understand why the details are relevant. The concluding sentence adds closure, alerting the reader that the paragraph is done and reminding the reader of the paragraph’s point.*

*After writing your “hamburger” outline, rewrite the ideas in paragraph form and share it with friends.*

Topic Sentence

Supporting Details...

More Supporting Details...

Still More Supporting Details....

Conclusion

## *Optional Activity – Outline the following paragraph.*

Chief among the legendary figures of the American Wild West were the lawmen of the frontier towns. Federal Marshall Wyatt Earp earned his reputation by bringing law and order first to Dodge City, Kansas, and later to Tombstone, Arizona. Earp is best remembered for the stand that he and his brothers made against the Clanton gang at the famous O.K. Corral. Another legendary lawman was Bat Masterson. Masterson served as sheriff of Ford County, Kansas, and assisted Wyatt Earp in ridding Dodge City and Tombstone of outlaws. Perhaps the most celebrated peace officer of the time was Wild Bill Hickok. Hickok's bravery and determination put an end to lawlessness in the rough Kansas cattle towns over which he presided. These peace officers who tamed the wildness of the Old West have become legends.

**Check your work:** (Sample outline of the paragraph above)

- I. Lawmen became legendary figures of the American Wild West.
- II. Wyatt Earp
  - A. Brought law and order to Dodge City and Tombstone
  - B. Famous for stand against Clanton gang at O.K. Corral
- III. Bat Masterson
  - A. Sheriff of Fod County, Kansas
  - B. Assisted Earp in Dodge City and Tombstone
- IV. Wild Bill Hickok
  - A. bravery and determination
  - B. Put an end to lawlessness in Kansas
- V. The peace officers who tamed wilderness became legends.

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