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## PARAGRAPH DEVELOPMENT: Writing topic, supporting and concluding sentences

Writing paragraphs is similar to writing lists.

The headings you use for lists e.g. shopping list, going away on holiday list, could form the **TOPIC SENTENCE** of your paragraph.

**A TOPIC SENTENCE** gives the **MAIN IDEA** of the paragraph.

**SUPPORTING SENTENCES** support the **TOPIC SENTENCE** (*main idea*).

**CONCLUDING SENTENCE/S** *sum up the paragraph and tell the reader that you have finished your discussion.*

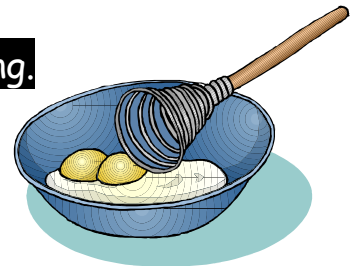
*Example:*

**TOPIC SENTENCE:**

1. **There are many different ways of using eggs in cooking.**

**SUPPORTING SENTENCES:**

2. They can be boiled lightly and eaten with toast.
3. Hard boiled eggs are good for picnics, sandwiches or use in salads.
4. Fried, poached and scrambled eggs are commonly eaten at breakfast, while an omelette provides a light and nourishing meal at any time.
5. For an exotic touch, eggs can be curried or used in sauces such as mayonnaise and hollandaise sauce.
6. To give lightness and substance, eggs are usually added to cakes and pastries.



**CONCLUDING SENTENCE**

7. There are few foods that are as nourishing and versatile as eggs.

*Add sentences 1 - 7 together and you have a well structured paragraph that does not wander off the subject: ' the use of eggs in cooking'.*

**2**



*In each of the examples below there is a topic sentence. Write **THREE SUPPORTING SENTENCES** in the blank spaces under each one and **ONE CONCLUDING SENTENCE**.*

*The first one has been done for you:*

**TOPIC SENTENCE:**

1. **There are many different kinds of footwear.**



**SUPPORTING SENTENCES:**

- 2. Sporting footwear includes: running spikes, climbing shoes and football, ice skating and diving boots to name but a few.
- 3. There is also footwear for differing types of weather e.g. galoshes, snow shoes and sandals.
- 4. In addition, fashion and culture have combined to influence footwear design, bringing us the platform sole, clogs, the stiletto heel and the moccasin.

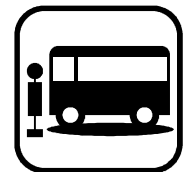
**CONCLUDING SENTENCE:**

5. Footwear has been designed to cater for all tastes and circumstances.

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**TOPIC SENTENCE:**

1. **There are several things that irritate me about travelling on public transport.**



**SUPPORTING SENTENCES:**

- 2. ....
- 3. ....
- 4. ....

**CONCLUDING SENTENCE:**

5. ....

**2**

**TOPIC SENTENCE:**

1. London offers several places of interest to visit.



**SUPPORTING SENTENCES:**

2. ....

3. ....

4. ....

**CONCLUDING SENTENCE:**

5. ....

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**TOPIC SENTENCE:**

1. There are several things to consider before getting a pet.



**SUPPORTING SENTENCES:**

2. ....

3. ....

4. ....

**CONCLUDING SENTENCE:**

5. ....

**2**

**TOPIC SENTENCE:**

1. **There are a number of ways to keep fit.**

**SUPPORTING SENTENCES:**

2. ....

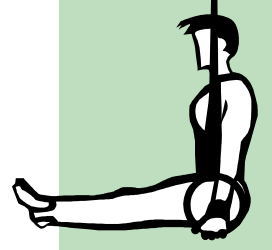
3. ....

4. ....

**CONCLUDING SENTENCE:**

5. ....

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**TOPIC SENTENCE:**

1. **Come to the City Lit and choose from a huge variety of courses on offer.**

**SUPPORTING SENTENCES:**

2. ....

3. ....

4. ....

**CONCLUDING SENTENCE:**

5. ....