

Writing Good Paragraphs

A **good paragraph** has a topic sentence that tells the paragraph's main idea. It has supporting details that tell more about the main idea and are organized in a logical way. A good paragraph ends with a strong conclusion.

Life in the Desert

Topic sentence gets readers' interest and states paragraph's main idea.

Next 10 sentences provide supporting details. They are arranged in two groups: plants and animals.

Conclusion vividly sums up paragraph's main idea.

The desert seems like a hot, empty place, but it is really full of life. In "Elena's Serenade," Elena goes to the desert. She says, "*El sol* blazes like Papa's furnace." Deserts are not only hot. They are also very dry. Still, plants that need little water grow there. These include cactuses, grasses, and even some trees. When it does rain, wildflowers and plants bloom. Many animals like the dry, hot desert climate. Snakes and lizards live under rocks during the day. Foxes and jackrabbits may also spend time in the desert. When you think of a desert, you may think of a dead brown landscape. But you will find that nature has amazing variety there.