
Student Success \ Speed-reading

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Information Organization in Paragraphs

As you read through the chapter, there are generally **seven types of paragraphs**.

INFORMATION-PACKED PARAGRAPHS

This is a strict information-packed paragraph that often is one (or a combination) of the following:

- Topic followed by subtopics.
- Topic followed by related facts and details.
- Classification of concepts.
- Definition of a concept.
- e.g. A paragraph giving detailed descriptions of the human cell.

CONCEPT AND EXAMPLES/EVIDENCE PARAGRAPHS

These describe a concept (or principle) which is then followed by supporting evidence or examples.

- e.g. Concept of evolution is explained followed by evidence and examples of how lower animal forms evolve towards higher forms over very long periods of time.

CAUSE(S) TO EFFECT PARAGRAPHS

These discuss information on cause(s) or factor(s) leading to a specific outcome or effect.

- e.g. How diet, exercise, and stress management affect a person's overall health.

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QUESTION AND ANSWER TYPE PARAGRAPHS

This type of paragraph poses a question (or problem situation) followed with an answer or solution.

COMPARE-CONTRAST PARAGRAPHS

These provide information examining similarities and differences, pros and cons, or any other type of comparison:

- Example: Comparing pros and cons of political theories.

SEQUENCE PARAGRAPHS

These go according to a sequence or a “story” in which several factors interact together to produce one, two or more outcomes.

- Example (chemistry): Chemicals A and B interact to produce C, which breaks down to D, E, and F, with D and E combining into a gas (G), and F becoming a liquid (H).

SUMMARIZING PARAGRAPHS

These identify the main points of a topic, and can happen in the following sections of a chapter:

- Introduction
- Summary
- Any “main points” or summarizing sections of the chapter