

University of Tikrit  
College of Education for Women  
Department of English Language



**Course Title: Composition Writing**

**Stage: 1<sup>st</sup> Year**

What is a Paragraph?

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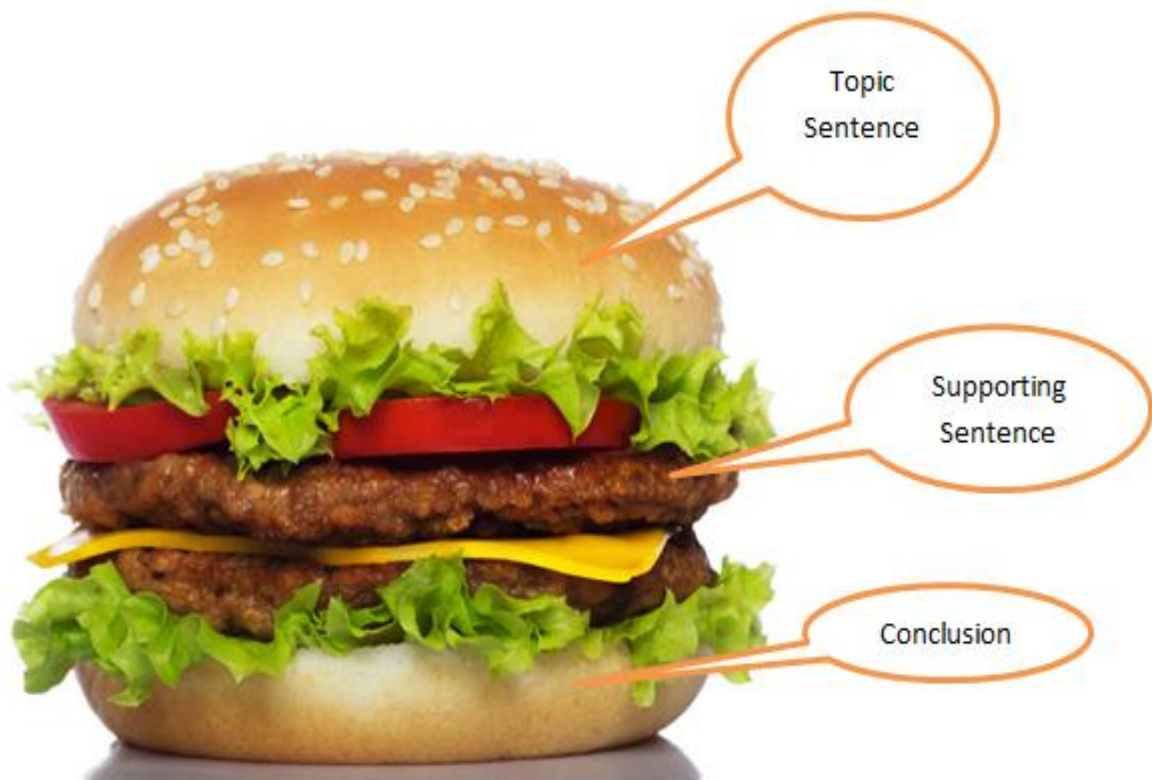
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## Lecture 2- What is a paragraph?

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**A paragraph** is a group of about 6-12 sentences about one topic. Every sentence in a strong paragraph is about the same topic. All of the sentences explain the writer's main idea (most important idea) about that topic.



## Paragraph Structure

Topic Sentence	Tells the main idea about the topic.
Supporting sentences	Develop the main idea (give more information, give details, explanations)
Concluding sentence	It sums up the paragraph.

### Reasons make the paragraph weak:-

- ❖ The sentences are not all about the same topic.
- ❖ There are not enough sentences.
- ❖ There is no topic sentence.
- ❖ Some sentences say the same thing.

Every sentence in a strong paragraph is about the same topic. All of the sentences explain the writer's main idea (most important idea) about that topic. When the writer wants to write about a new main idea, he / she begins a new paragraph.

A paragraph can give information, tell an opinion, explain something, or even tell a short story. The sentences are arranged logically, so the reader can easily understand what the writer wants to say.

In academic writing, a paragraph has ***a topic sentence*** that directly tells the reader the main idea.

The other sentences in the paragraph, called ***supporting sentences***, give more information about the topic. They add specific details and explanations,

In academic English, the topic sentence is usually (but not always!) first or last.