

## **Lecture03:**

### **The difference between an essay and a paragraph:**

#### **1- The definition of the essay:**

An essay is a piece of writing that revolves around a particular subject and contains the academic opinions of the person writing it. To write an essay you need an Introduction, a Body (Supporting Paragraphs), and a Conclusion.

A basic essay mainly consists of three parts: Introduction, Body, and Conclusion. The following parts will help you write a good essay.

1. An **introduction** that gives the reader an idea of what they are about to learn and presents an argument in the form of a thesis statement
2. A **body, or middle section**, that provides evidence used to prove and persuade the reader to accept the writer's particular point of view
3. A **conclusion** that summarizes the content and findings of the essay

#### **Introduction :**

It constitutes the opening paragraph of the essay.

It helps the reader get oriented with the topic.

It states the purpose of the essay.

It captures the interest of the reader.

It presents the general idea of the essay.

It often ends with the thesis or the main idea of the essay.

#### **Body (Supporting Paragraphs) :**

They constitute the supporting sentences and ideas.

They provide the reader with additional details about the main idea.

They support the thesis of the writer.

There is no fixed number of supporting paragraphs.

Ideally, every supporting paragraph should contain a different idea.

### Conclusion :

It constitutes the ending paragraph(s) of the essay.

It ties up loose ends of the paragraph.

It summarizes all the arguments.

It brings the essay to a logical close.

It never ends in detail.

The essay writing process consists of three main stages:

1. **Preparation:** Decide on your topic, do your research, and create an essay outline.
2. **Writing:** Set out your argument in the introduction, develop it with evidence in the main body, and wrap it up with a conclusion.
3. **Revision:** Check the content, organization, grammar, spelling, and formatting of your essay.

#### 1. Preparation

- Define your [essay topic](#)
- Do your research and gather sources
- Come up with a [thesis](#)
- Create an [essay outline](#)

#### 2. Writing

- Write the [introduction](#)
- Write the [main body](#), organized into [paragraphs](#)
- Write the [conclusion](#)

#### 3. Revision

- Evaluate the [overall organization](#)
- Revise the content of each paragraph
- [Proofread your essay](#) or use a [Grammar Checker](#) for language errors

### 2: The definition of the Paragraph:

A paragraph can be defined as a group of related sentences that discuss only one main idea. It should be unified, coherent, and well- developed.

In writing a paragraph, you have to follow the 3 steps following:

1. Write a topic sentence
2. Supporting sentences
3. Concluding sentence

. **The topic sentence:** is the first sentence in the paragraph. It opens the paragraph. The topic sentence states the main idea of the paragraph. That is, paragraphs topic sentences generally show what the whole paragraph is about.

. **Supporting sentences:** are used to develop the topic sentence. In other words; they give more information about the topic sentence. Supporting sentences can give facts, statistics, details, or examples.

. **The concluding sentence:** is the last sentence in the paragraph. It usually restates the topic sentence in different words or summarizes the main points of the paragraph.

### **Differences and similarities of an essay and a paragraph:**

- The relationship between a paragraph and an essay is symbiotic; you can't write an essay without using paragraphs, and four or more consecutive paragraphs about the same subject matter become an essay. Both paragraphs and essays have a distinct beginning, middle and end. They're also both composed of five sections: A paragraph typically has five sentences, and an essay, five paragraphs.
- Both a good paragraph and a good essay make a point. One thought logically flows into another with one central point in mind.
- A paragraph includes a topic sentence that is followed by at least two to three sentences that elaborate on that topic. It ends with a final sentence that sums up those thoughts and reaches a conclusion about them.
- An essay includes an introduction that presents a topic followed by at least two to three paragraphs that elaborate on that topic along with a final paragraph that sums up those thoughts and reaches a conclusion about them.
- The difference is that the topic in an essay is generally broader and requires multiple paragraphs to explain the points its writer intends to make about that topic.

### **More explanation**

There is a significant difference between an essay and a paragraph. A paragraph is generally fairly short. It should have a specific topic or theme. The body of the paragraph should explain the main point or idea of the paragraph. In a paragraph, there is a topic sentence, followed by supporting details, and a conclusion.

An essay consists of several paragraphs covering the main idea or thesis of the essay. Writing an essay generally requires more time, thinking, and preparation. More research often needs to be done to develop the main idea of an essay.

Most students are familiar with a five-paragraph essay. The first paragraph introduces the main idea of the essay. The next three paragraphs are used to support the main idea. The last paragraph summarizes the main concept of the essay. It should support the main idea made throughout the essay.

## **1Topic Sentence**

Both paragraphs and essays begin with a topic sentence, or a thesis statement, that explains to the reader what the paragraph, or essay, is about. A thesis statement for an essay is longer and more detailed than the topic sentence at the beginning of a paragraph.

## **2Supporting Details**

Paragraphs and essays both require supporting details that elaborate on the statements made in the topic sentence or thesis statement. In a paragraph, each subsequent sentence builds upon the point made in the topic sentence; in an essay, the first sentence in each paragraph discusses points made in the thesis statement. In a paragraph, the sentences following the topic sentence are called "supporting details." In an essay, the paragraphs following the thesis statement are called "supporting paragraphs." Each supporting paragraph has its own supporting details.

## **3Length**

Paragraphs and essays differ in their length. Paragraphs are typically between five and six sentences long. They're composed of a topic sentence and four or five supporting details. Essays contain at least five paragraphs; they're composed of an introductory paragraph (which includes the thesis statement), at least three supporting paragraphs and a conclusion paragraph.

## **4Conclusion**

Both paragraphs and essays must end with a conclusion, but the type of conclusion differs. Paragraphs must end with a concluding sentence that states the basic point of the paragraph. It should not rephrase or reiterate the topic sentence. Essays end with a conclusion paragraph that summarizes the content of the essay and reiterates the thesis statement with different phrasing. The conclusion paragraph usually revisits the points introduced in the supporting paragraphs to prove to the reader that, from the writer's point of view, the thesis statement was correct.