

6. Write your Paper

WRITING A PARAGRAPH FOR A RESEARCH PAPER—EXAMPLE

THESIS: The Pittsburgh Steelers are the greatest football franchise of the Super Bowl Era.

[This sentence does not go in your paragraph, but will ensure that you stay on topic]

TOPIC SENTENCE: The Pittsburgh Steelers have won more important games than any other football team during the Super Bowl Era.

[Your topic sentence should connect to your thesis. In other words, your topic sentence should help to support the claim you made in your thesis by proving that your thesis statement is true.]

DETAIL 1

The Steelers have won six Super Bowls during the last 45 years.
(ESPN)

Supporting sentence(s): The Super Bowl is the ultimate goal of any football team. No other team has won the Super Bowl more than 5 times. (CBS Sports)

DETAIL 2

The Steelers have been to the playoffs 27 times.
(ESPN)

Supporting sentence(s): There is nothing more exciting than a playoff game. Over the 50 years that the NFL playoffs have ended in a Super Bowl, the Steelers have been in competition for the big prize in over half of those year

DETAIL 3

They have won the AFC Championship 8 times.
(FOX News)

Supporting sentence(s): The Steelers have won their conference and attended more Super Bowls than any other team. (FOX News)

Details #1, #2, and #3 should all help to support your topic sentence. These are what you researched that helps to explain and prove that your topic sentence is true.

CONCLUSION: The total dominance of the Pittsburgh Steelers in the playoffs and big games is one of the main reasons why they are the best franchise in all of football.

Conclusion restates the topic sentence and ties back together your details.

WHAT WOULD THIS PARAGRAPH LOOK LIKE ALL WRITTEN?

The Pittsburgh Steelers have won more important games than any other football team during the Super Bowl Era. The Steelers have won six Super Bowls during the last 45 years. (ESPN) The Super Bowl is the ultimate goal of any football team. No other team has won more than 5 times. (CBS Sports) The Steelers have been to the playoffs twenty seven times. (ESPN) There is nothing more exciting than a playoff game. Over the 50 years that the NFL playoffs have ended in a Super Bowl, the Steelers have been in competition for the big prize in over half of those years. They have won the AFC Championship Game 8 times. (FOX News) The Steelers have won their conference championship and attended the Super Bowl more than any other team. (FOX News) The total dominance of the Pittsburgh Steelers in the playoffs and big games is one of the main reasons why they are the best franchise in all of football.

WRITING A PARAGRAPH FOR A RESEARCH PAPER—OPENING PARAGRAPH

THESIS/MAIN IDEA:

This research paper will evaluate the scientific evidence that supports the claim that _____ explains the diversity of life on earth today.

[This sentence does not go in most paragraphs, but will ensure that you stay on topic, since every paragraph in your research paper should have a connection to the main idea of the paper.]

TOPIC SENTENCE:

Many people and cultures have differing perspectives that explain how life on earth began and came to be what we currently observe today.

[For all other paragraphs, your topic sentence should connect to your thesis. In this paragraph, it should be a general introduction of what your paper is going to be about.]

DETAIL 1

Age of the Earth

Supporting idea(s):

DETAIL 2

Rocks and Fossils

Supporting idea(s):

DETAIL 3

Natural Selection

Supporting idea(s):

CONCLUSION:

For your introductory paragraph, your conclusion will be the Thesis statement, exactly as it's written above. For all other paragraphs, your conclusion will re-state the topic sentence.