**The Development of a Paragraph**

**Paragraph development**

After you have chosen a topic and written a topic sentence, you develop your main idea by adding more information to explain what you mean. This unit will explain three common ways to develop a paragraph: giving details, giving an explanation, and giving an example.

**Details**

Details are specific points that tell more about a general statement.

**Explanation**

An explanation tells the reader what something means or how something works.

**Example**

An example is a specific person, place, thing, or even that supports an idea or statement.

**Concluding Sentences**

**How to end a paragraph?**

The final sentence of a paragraph is called the concluding sentence. It sums up the main points or restates the main idea in a different way. A sentence that sums up the paragraph reminds the reader of what the writer's main idea and supporting points were. A sentence that restate the main idea should give the same information in a slightly different way, perhaps by using different words or by using different word order. A concluding sentence shouldn't introduce a new point.

**Peer editing**

**What is peer editing?**

Showing your work to another student is a very useful way to improve your writing. This is called peer editing. You read your partner's writing and your partner reads yours. You comment on your partner's writing and your partner comments on yours. You might talk together, write comments on a sheet that your instructor gives you, or write directly on your partner's work.

**Why do writers use peer editing?**

There are two reasons for peer editing. The first is to get a reader's opinion about your writing. A reader can tell you that…

* You should add more details or explanation.
* Something is not organized clearly.
* You have some information that is not relevant.
* There is something that is hard to understand.

These comments will help you write your next draft.

The second reason to share writing with others is for you to read more examples of writing. Other people will have had experience that you haven't. They may show you fresh ways of writing about experiences. Reading their paragraphs and essays can give you good ideas to use yourself in the future.

**How do I peer edit?**

Read your partner's work several times. The first time, just read from the beginning to the end. Ask yourself, 'What is it about? What is the writer's purpose?'

On your second reading, go more slowly and look at specific parts of the writing and make notes.

* Look for topic sentences and concluding sentences.
* Note places where you have trouble understanding something, where there seems to be unnecessary information, or where there is not enough information.
* Let the writer know which parts of the text are especially strong or interesting.
* Ask questions. This is a good way to let the writer know where he or she could add more information.
* Circle or underline words, phrases, and sentences that you with to comment on.