**II** **The** **Developmental** **Paragraphs** (**The** **body** **of** **the** **essay**)

Development paragraphs (D. Ps) constitute the body of the essay (or the heart in some references) since it is there where we explain, illustrate, discuss, or prove the thesis statement. In student's essays, their number ranges from two to four, depending on the number of subtopics that divide the central idea in the Th. S.

The following characteristics about developmental paragraphs will help you plan, draft, and revise your D. Ps:

* Each developmental paragraph should discuss one aspect of the central idea. If, for instance, you were asked to produce a paper (essay) about the effects of smoking on one's health, each paragraph should have one effect as its topic.
* Each controlling idea in the topic sentences should echo the central idea of the Th. S. For Example, if your Th. S was 'Smoking is a destructive habit”, then each topic sentence should include one aspect of the destructiveness of smoking (for example to the nervous system, to the respiratory system and to the digestive system).
* The D.Ps should respect ***unity*** and ***coherence***; that is to say the order of the paragraphs should not be random. As you have to order the sentences of a paragraph in a given way, so you should do with the paragraphs of an essay. Depending on your topic, purpose and your personal style as a writer, your paragraphs can discuss examples, reason, effects, arguments... etc. In addition, you can organise these topics in terms of: ***importance*** (from most to least important or vice versa), ***generality*** (from general to specific or vice versa), ***chronological order*** (in sequence of events or steps of a process), ***spatial order*** (in a description for example). In short, whatever order you might opt for, your paragraphs should follow each other in a logical way.

**•How to Write a Coherent Paragraph?**

In order to write a coherent developmental paragraph, the following points should be taken into consideration:

1. You have to choose a singular focus for you paragraph. We mean that each developmental paragraph is regarded as a discrete unit of thought that expands one specific idea, not three or four.
2. Begin your paragraph with atopic sentence. Nothing will help you to keep a tighter focus on your paragraph than topic sentences. Since the topic sentence describes the claim or the point of your paragraph, in this case your reader will be oriented to the purpose of your paragraph, and this will help to follow your thoughts and arguments.
3. Try to demonstrate in each developmental paragraph with clear and convincing evidence that your thesis is correct and your reader should accept your position as his or her own.
4. Develop your idea as well as you can. In order to keep focus within your paragraph, and at the same time expand your ideas adequately to reach the appropriate length of a conventional paragraph.

**How to Break down a Thesis Statement and Write Topic Sentences:**

Since the paragraphs of the essay should turn around the thesis statement, in that they discuss the same topic already expressed in the thesis statement, it is important to know how we can get to the subtopics that will be developed in the body of the essay.

Once the thesis statement has been decided on, to determine the different subtopics of the developmental paragraphs, you have to break down the thesis logically into topics that fits the body of the essay. For example, to write an essay about the beautiful sights in your country either to persuade the reader to visit your country, or just inform them about your country, you have to follow these steps:

**The principle behind the break down:**

* The breaking down of the thesis into subtopics depends on the thesis itself. Knowing the purpose behind the thesis statement helps you in breaking down the thesis into topics.
* The thesis can be broken into topics according to causes, effects, steps in a process, types, examples, and points of comparison. The selected topics should help you in proving the opinion and the attitude that you have already expressed in your thesis statement.
* One way to break down the thesis into topics is to turn the thesis statement into question, the answer to this question might help you to come up with possible topics for the developmental paragraphs, and at the same time it helps you to determine the strategy for organizing your essay.

**Example1:**

The thesis statement is: "**My country has some of the most beautiful sights in Africa.**"

**1.** What is the topic of your thesis, and what is the opinion?

**a.** The topic of my thesis is: **"sights of my country"**

**b.** The opinion is: **"beautiful"**

**2.** Change the thesis statement into a question: **What are the most beautiful sights of my country?**

**3.** What are the possible answers? **Tassili sunset, Constantine bridges, and Chrea skiing resort** (every answer makes one subtopic/subdivision/aspect of the essay).

**4.** **Revised thesis statement**: Let's make the thesis more specific by adding subtopics.

**Revised Th.S:** ***My country has some of the most beautiful sights in Africa: Tassili sunset, Constantine bridges, and Chrea skiing resort.***

**Topic sentences:**

**1.** The sunset in the Tassili gives a lovely panorama that makes tourists from all over the world want to witness it.

**2.** The Hanged bridges in Constantine are one of the attractive sights in my country.

**3.** The skiing resort in Chrea is extremely charming.

**The principle behind the break down:**

Each paragraph should discuss one sight; and the controlling idea of each topic sentence should be something synonym to beautiful such as charming, lovely, attractive, and pleasing.

**Practice: Breaking the thesis**

Study the following thesis statements. Identify the topic and the opinion of each thesis, and provide each one with subtopics and supporting topic sentences.

1. The village is the best environment for me to live.
2. Smoking cigarettes is harmful to your health.
3. Jogging is not the only way to improve your blood circulation.
4. Writing in a foreign language is almost a difficult task.

**Answer1:**

The thesis statement is: **"The village is the best environment for me to live"**

1. What is the topic of your thesis, and what is the opinion?

* The topic of my thesis is**: “the village”**
* The opinion is: **“best environment to live”**

**2.** Change the thesis statement into a question. **What makes it the best environment?**

**3.** What are the possible answers? Because there is **a lack of pollution, lovely nature, and solid human relationships, etc.** (every answer makes one subtopic/subdivision/aspect of the essay).

**The principle behind the break down:** Each paragraph, then, should discuss a different element from the environment of the village that will help the writer in convincing his readers about his attitude towards living in a village.

1. **Revised thesis statement:** Let's make the thesis more specific by adding subtopics

**Th.S:** " ***The village is the best environment for me to live because of the lack of pollution, its lovely nature, and the solid human relationship among countrymen***"

**5. Topic sentences:**

1. One important characteristic of the countryside is the lack of pollution.

**2.** Another feature that makes the village more suitable for life is its lovely nature.

**3.** Solid human relationships among countrymen is the third factor why living in the village is convenient.

**Answer 2:**

- Thesis statement: "**Smoking cigarettes is harmful to your health"**

• The topic of my thesis is: **"Smoking"**

• The opinion is**: "harmful to health"**

**1.** Change the thesis statement into a question. **Why is it harmful to health?**

**2.** What are the possible answers? Because of throat diseases, lungs diseases, and digestive system diseases. (every answer makes one subtopic/subdivision/aspect of the essay).

**3. Revised thesis statement:** Let's make the thesis more specific by adding subtopics

4. **Th.S:** "***Smoking cigarettes is harmful to your health as it causes throat, lungs, and digestive system diseases***".

**5.Topic sentences:**

**1.** Heavy cigarette smoking can cause throat diseases.

**2.** Smoking can damage the lungs.

**3.** Likewise, smoking harms the digestive system.

**Answer 3:**

Thesis statement: **"Jogging is not the only way to improve your blood circulation."**

* The topic of my thesis is: **"Jogging"**
* The opinion is**: "not the only way to improve your blood circulation"**

**1.** Change the thesis statement into a question. **What are the other ways that can improve blood circulation?**

**2.** What are the possible answers? Other ways are **cycling** and **swimming**. (every answer makes one subtopic/subdivision/aspect of the essay).

**3. Revised thesis statement:** Let's make the thesis more specific by adding subtopics

**4. Th.S:** "Jogging is not the only way to improve your blood circulation; cycling and swimming can be such ways".

**5. Topic sentences:**

* Many have found cycling an excellent aerobic exercise to improve your blood circulation.
* Another way to better your circulation is to swim.

**Answer 4:**

- Thesis statement: **"Writing in a foreign language is almost a difficult task."**

* The topic of my thesis is**: "Writing in a foreign language"**
* The opinion is: **" almost a difficult task”**

**1.** Change the thesis statement into a question. **Why is Writing in a foreign language a difficult task?**

**2.** What are the possible answers? Because of **the lack of vocabulary and the ignorance of the writing mechanics**, (every answer makes one subtopic/subdivision/aspect of the essay).

**3. Revised thesis statement:** Let's make the thesis more specific by adding subtopics

**4. Th.S:** ***"Writing in a foreign language is almost a difficult task owing to the shortage in vocabulary knowledge and the inefficiency in the use of writing mechanics."***

**5. Topic sentences:**

**1.** The lack of the foreign language vocabulary is a major hindrance for students to write effective essays.

**2.** In addition to the poor vocabulary stock, the ignorance of writing mechanics is another serious problem within this scope.

**Exercise 2:** Following what has been learned, list at least three possible topic sentences for the following thesis statements.

**1.** Learning English is not so easy.

**2.** People go to shopping centers for different reasons.

**3.** The social consequences of poverty.

**Exercise 3**

Each item below contains an essay question

1. **Essay Question**

***"In a five paragraph essay, describe three approaches you take when studying for a test"***

Your 3 Main Points:

a.)

b)

c.)

Your Thesis Statement:

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1. **Essay Question:**

***“Discuss some of the changes students face when attending university."***

Your 3 Main Points:

a.)

b)

c.)

Your Thesis Statement:

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1. **Essay Question:**

***“Life at college comes with many different challenges. Of course, people deal with their problems in a variety of ways. Please describe one problem you face, and some of the ways you deal with it.***

Your 3 Main Points:

a.)

b)

c.)

Your Thesis Statement:

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**Exercise 4:** Below are topic sentences for the paragraphs in three different essays. Write a thesis a suitable statement for each essay.

1. **Thesis statement:**

**Topic sentence #1:** Sylvia carried good luck charms in each of her pockets.

**Topic sentence #2:** I remember one Friday the 13th; she refused to get out of bed.

**Topic sentence #3:** Sylvia used to read the clouds for instructions about how she should spend each day.

1. **Thesis statement:**

**Topic sentence #1:** Testing employees for drugs enables an employer to avoid problems with new hires and to treat the drug problems of veteran workers.

**Topic sentence #2:** A company that tests employees for drug use is protecting its clients and the public.

**Topic sentence #3:** Drug testing at the workplace deters drug use elsewhere.

1. **Thesis statement:**

**Topic sentence #1:** When you are under water, what you see and hear is strange and wonderful.

**Topic sentence #2:** A sport diver can expand his scuba diving ability by taking specialty courses.

**Topic sentence #3:** Ice diving is the type of diving I want to get into next.

**Keys:**

1. Sylvia was a slave to her superstitions.
2. Companies should have the right to conduct drug tests on their employees.
3. Scuba diving has lured me into new worlds of learning.

**Exercise 5:** choose one of the thesis statements stated above, then write an introduction and at least two developmental paragraphs. Use what you have learnt about the characteristics of a good introductory paragraph and developmental paragraphs.

**III The Concluding Paragraph**

Your conclusion is your last opportunity to tell your reader your message. It is usually the last thing s/he will read. Your conclusion should accomplish three goals:

1. Remind your reader of your thesis statement
2. Summarize the main ideas of your paper.
3. Give your reader a take-home message.

**Give your reader a take-home message.**

What is a take-home message? It's the most important message you'd like for people to come away from your paper with. One way to come up with your take-home message is to ask yourself this question: **if I could choose only one thing for my reader to remember, take home, and share with others, what would it be?** This is the message you want to include in your conclusion

Here are some ways to conclude your paper:

- Spur the reader to action

-Suggest a course of action

-Generalize to a broader situation.

- Make a prediction about the future.

- Use a thoughtful quotation or an anecdote.

Let's look at an example of a conclusion.

*I was able to overcome a number of obstacles during my year abroad. My trip could have easily been a disaster when confronted with any one of these problems. It was not because I was able to make the experience enriching to myself as well as to many of the people I encountered. It was this experience that encouraged me to study Chinese and Russian and to live in Taiwan and Russia. It was also this experience convinced me that I could do anything that I put my mind to.*

**Practice: Concluding paragraphs**

**Exercise:**

Following are thesis statements, their supporting topic sentences,) and conclusions. Study each conclusion to determine if it logically concludes. If the conclusion is not appropriate write the reason why and suggest a logical one.

**1. Thesis statement:** "living in smaller family is better than living in a larger family."

I don't want to give the impression that I didn't have a happy childhood. I most definitely did; I was loved as much as my parents could love me, and I had wonderful fun with my brothers and sisters. But I always wanted a little more time with Mom and Dad, and I often resented having so much responsibility. I wished my mom wasn't always so tired and my dad didn't have to work so much. Because I want to be there more for my kids, because I want them to be kids throughout their childhood, I plan to have a much smaller family.

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**2. Thesis statement:** "Personal computers have especially transformed communication and business practice in the past twenty years"

In brief the computer age has arrived, and it is changing our lives. Computers have made communicating and 1doing business faster and more convenient, and they have greatly increased our access to information. Just as the invention of automobiles had an unplanned consequence the growth of suburbs- so will the invention of personal computers. We will have to wait and see what these unintentional consequences will be.

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**3. Thesis statement:** "Watching television is not a waste of time"

**a.** It is a valuable educational tool.

**b.** It helps us to relax,

**c.** It provides something for the family to discuss.

Because of its educational value, its entertainment value, and its provision of things we can discuss together, our family is going to continue watching television for a long time, and so should others. Indeed watching television is a good way to spend one's time.

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**4.Thesis statement:** "Television commercials are entertaining"

**a.** The Coca-Cola commercial is a good example of an entertaining commercial.

**b.** The Chevrolet commercial is a good as any situation comedy.

**c.** The Fritos commercial is particularly amusing.

If you do not have a television, you are certainly missing out on the fun of commercials. There are (also) a lot of entertainment programs to see. In addition, the news programs keep you informed about the world. Indeed, everyone should have a television set.

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**5- Thesis statement:** "In order to make a good impression at a job interview, you should prepare well for the interview."

**a.** The first thing you should do is plan your answer to the possible questions the interviewer might ask.

**b.** Then you should carefully plan and prepare what you are going to wear.

**c.** you should make sure you arrive on time.

As you can see, it is necessary to be well prepared to the job interview. Having the answer ready, being properly dressed, and being on time can help to make a good impression on the interviewer. If you follow these steps, you will find yourself sitting behind the desk at the coveted job in no time at all.

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**Transitions between Paragraphs: Linking ideas together**

Coherence or rationality is an important element in essay writing since it makes the connection between different points and paragraphs, and to show how one paragraph is linked to another. Coherence is reached by the use of transitional markers. These are certain words that are used to signpost the direction your line of reasoning is about to take, such as adding more emphasis, or introducing an alternative viewpoint.

Below is a selection or words used to link ideas, depending on the direction of your argument.

Adding more to a point already made

\* also, moreover, furthermore, again, further, what is more, then, in addition

\* besides, above all, as well, (as)

\* either, neither...nor, not only.., but also, similarly, correspondingly, in the same way, indeed

\* in fact, really, in reality, it is found that ...

as to, with respect to, regarding

\* first(ly), second(ly), thirdly)

**Exercise:**

|  |
| --- |
| ***Living in a Large Family***  I grew up in a large family--I am the oldest of six-and I have many wonderful memories from my childhood. I am very close to most of my siblings and I treasure my relationships with them. Although as much as my large family was full of love, and as much as I learned about sharing, giving, and patience; when I have my own family someday, it won't be as big as the one I grew up in. I think having too many kids puts too much pressure on the parents, both in terms of time and money, and on the oldest children.  When I think back on my childhood, I remember playing with my siblings or grandparents.  I do not remember spending a whole lot of time with my mother and father. They were always around, but they were always busy. My mother was always cooking, cleaning, nursing, changing a diaper, shopping, or taking someone to baseball practice, and my father was always working. He needed overtime whenever he could get it, and weekends were always full of projects around the house.  Money was also a constant worry for my family. With so many children, our budget was always tight. Back-to-school shopping was always a stressful time; we all wanted the latest fashions, but we could only get few things. My younger siblings lived in hand-me-downs. We shopped at bargain stores and often got clothes that we did not really like because they were on sale. Our house always needed repairs, and there was never enough money to keep up.  Another problem with large families is that the older siblings always end up being babysitters. Like it or not (and most of the time I did not like it), I had to watch my younger brothers and sisters. At age six, I could change a diaper like a pro. I was getting my brothers and sisters dressed, giving them breakfast, helping them get ready for bed.  I do not want to give the impression that I did not have a happy childhood. I most definitely did; I was loved as much as my parents could love me and I had wonderful fun with my brothers and sisters. However, I always wanted a little more time with Mom and Dad, and I often resented having so much responsibility. I wished my mom was not always so tired and my dad did not have to work so much. Because I want to be there more for my kids, because I want them to be kids throughout their childhood, I plan to have a much smaller family. |

**Questions:**

1. Identify and double underline the thesis statement. Is it a good statement?

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1. What kind of introduction has this essay? Explain.

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3. Underline the topic sentences of the body paragraphs.

4. How does the writer conclude his essay?

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1. Does he restate the main points of the essay?

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1. Is it a logical conclusion?

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1. Identify the transition signals used by the writer.

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1. What is the principle of organization he used?

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**Exercise:**

Choose a topic, and then write your own essay. You should take into account the requirements of a good essay:

1. A good introductory paragraph,
2. A well stated thesis statement that includes the subtopics of the body of the paragraphs,
3. A topic sentence for each paragraph,
4. And at the end a logical concluding paragraph.

**Answer:**

**MY FAVORITE SIGHTS**

In each country in the world, there are always some beautiful sights to see. They might be a monument, a garden, or a cathedral Every country is proud of them and everyone is interested in talking about them in my country, three important points of interest attract a great number of tourists all year portrait of these sights is complete without mentioning their historical and seasonal aspects. Because of these aspects, Quebec is a place where you can find some of the most interesting sights you will ever see

Old Quebec City is the living witness of our history. The first example is the church Notre-Dame des victories. Located at the bottom of Cap Diamant, this church was the first one built in North America. It ummemorates the establishment of Quebec in 1608. It is a modest and charming church, constructed of Scones and dominated by a single belfry from where you can still hear authentic chimes ringing. Another example is the Ramparts. Originally, they were long fortifications all around the city with three main doors to enter in. Now, the three doors are renovated and part of the fortifications is preserved, offering a harmonious blend of history and innovation finally, the focal point of Old Quebec City is the Plaines d'Abraham. It is a very large hill from which we can have a scenic view of the Saint Lawrence River and the city. It was on this site that our founders won many battles but, unfortunately, lost the most important one. Nevertheless, the spot is now a wonderful park where is still present, with its many cannons, a past which is not so far away. Regardless of the season, those three points are colorful: red in autumn, white in winter, light green in spring, and dark green in summer

From the Plaines d'Abraham, it is easy to discover the majestic Saint Lawrence River. This beautiful broad river was the open door for our founders Traveling in canoes, they established the first three cities in the lands drained by the Saint Lawrence: Quebec, Montreal, and Trois-Rivières. They must have been impressed with the clear, sweet water, the tree-studded island, and the banks lined with pine and hemlock. Today, the river is an exceptional waterway extending 1,500 miles into the interior. Like the Mississipi River, it is, in every season, the location for great activities. Although the most important one is commercial, pleasure and sport are considerable: for example, boating, water-skiing, and fishing. These are particularly popular in summer. Furthermore, even though there are 3 to 5 feet of ice on the river in the winter, the Saint Lawrence is still navigable.

On the north shore of the Saint Lawrence River, five miles from Quebec, the famous Montmorency Falls are located. These beautiful falls were discovered by a French explorer in the sixteenth century. About 350 feet high, and with frothing, foaming sheets of water, they are the highest falls in North America During the summer, it is popular to go to one of the huge park areas near the falls to admire their cascades. At night, it is possible to hear and see a lovely sound and light show. During the winter, the main activity is at the bottom. The small drops of vapor in the air form a huge, round block of ice at the bottom of the falls which becomes bigger and bigger. This strange sight draws a lot of children and adults who spend time climbing up and down

Is it possible to find a country where the beauty, the history, and the variety in the scenery are combined in such perfect harmony? Of course, our four seasons mean four different aspects of the same sight. I don't know if it is because I am far from my country, but I am convinced that Quebec has some of the most beautiful sights that I have ever seen.