



Step Up to Writing

Our paragraphs consist of eight sentences. The **first** sentence is the topic sentence. The **second** sentence is a detail about the topic. The **third** sentence is an example or explanation of the second sentence. The **fourth** sentence is another detail about the topic. The **fifth** sentence is an example or explanation of the fourth sentence. The **sixth** sentence is the final detail about the topic. The **seventh** sentence is an example or explanation of the sixth sentence. The **eighth** sentence is the conclusion.

(See the following examples for the process of developing a complete paragraph.)



A brainstorm might look like this:

My Favorite Animal

1. blue whale
2. largest mammal
3. gigantic
4. not really blue
5. eats krill



A web might look like this:

My favorite animal is the blue whale.

☆ largest mammal

- biggest on Earth

☆ it's not really blue

- it's gray

☆ eats krill

- doesn't eat fish

The blue whale is such a cool animal.



A rough draft might look like this:

My Favorite Animal

My favorite animal is the blue whale. It is the largest mammal on Earth. It is bigger than any other animal that ever lived. It is not really blue. It is gray. It eats something called krill. It does not eat fish. The blue whale is such a cool animal.