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Tips and tricks to write like a pro.

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## Paragraph Writing

Purpose: Use the RED Writing System.

A good paragraph is a group of sentences that talk about one idea. After reading the paragraph, the reader should understand your idea and why you think it is true. So, a paragraph is an idea plus facts or information.

Most good paragraphs have this organization:

1. First sentence tells the reader your main idea.
2. Next three or four sentences give the reader your reasons, examples or details.
3. Last sentence is a conclusion.

## RED Writing System

The middle of your paragraph provides reasons, examples or details. This the RED part of the paragraph. Why RED? It shows you what needs to be inside a paragraph.

R - Reasons. Say why something happens or why your idea is true.

E - Examples. Show how your idea is similar to other things.

D - Details. Describe the shape, color, size, etc to give the reader a picture of your idea.

## Your Writing Project

Here is a topic sentence.

“Walking down the street I noticed a new bookstore had opened in my neighborhood.”

Write three different paragraphs:

1. one that gives reasons
2. one that provides examples
3. one that gives the reader details.

On the next page, I have included sample paragraphs. Your answers will be different from mine. That's okay. My examples show you how to use the system. I don't want you to copy my ideas.

Learn how to use the RED Writing system and you will be able to write great paragraphs that communicate your ideas clearly.

## Paragraph Writing

Sample paragraphs which show the RED Writing System for the same topic sentence.

This paragraph explains the reasons why I'm happy to see a new bookstore.

Walking down the street I noticed a new bookstore had opened in my neighborhood. I was really glad to see that. The nearest bookstore is far away in the downtown area. It usually takes more than 30 minutes to get there. Just a short walk from my house, the new bookstore is also near my favorite coffee shop. It has a good selection of new titles plus a small selection of classics like Shakespeare. I'll be spending a lot of time in this shop, which is right around the corner from my house.

This paragraph shows examples of other changes in the neighbourhood.

Walking down the street I noticed a new bookstore had opened in my neighborhood. Just last month, an old stationary store used to be in the same spot. These days, many of the older stores in my neighborhood are changing. For example, a new Thai restaurant opened last month in a building that used to have a clothing shop. Three months ago, Mr. Johnson decided to retire and closed his furniture store. Now there is a Chinese restaurant in his space. My neighborhood is changing and I am happy to see new places to shop and eat.

This paragraph describes the details of the bookstore, inside and outside.

Walking down the street I noticed a new bookstore had opened in my neighborhood. The front of the store looks like an old English book shop with a large wooden door that is surprisingly heavy. Just inside the main door, there is a small box with used books. Oddly, these books are on sale for \$1 per kilogram. Near the back, there is a tall bookshelf with great classics like Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. Near the cash machine, there is a rack with a good supply of magazines like The Economist, Time and Asia Weekly. I'll be spending a lot of time in this book shop, which is right around the corner from my house.