

Really Good Stuff® Activity Guide

Create the Perfect Paragraph

Congratulations on your purchase of the Really Good Stuff® **Create the Perfect Paragraph** Poster—a whole palette full of colorful instructions for writing good paragraphs.

Inside this set you'll find:

- **Create the Perfect Paragraph** Poster, 19" by 24"
- This Really Good Stuff® Activity Guide

Create the Perfect Paragraph Poster Activities

Introducing the *Create the Perfect Paragraph* Poster

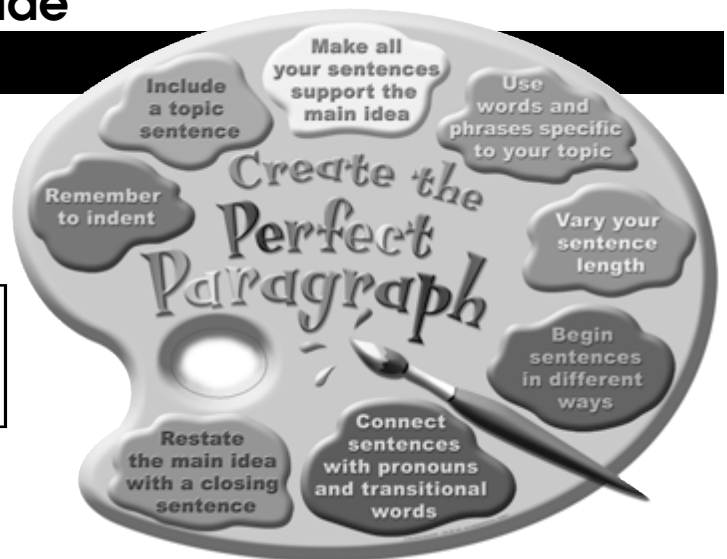
Make a copy of each page of the Really Good Stuff® Activity Guide, then display the poster in your classroom. Explain to students that a paragraph is a group of sentences that go together to support a main idea. As students are reviewing the poster, explain that there are things they can do to make better paragraphs when they are writing. Point to the red paint at the top left on the poster and have a student read the instruction aloud. Talk with students about why indenting is important for good paragraphing and then continue by having a student read the instruction in the orange paint. Moving clockwise around the palette, have students read and discuss each paragraphing instruction.

Topic Sentences

Give your students some hands-on practice identifying topic sentences. Ask each student to cut out a newspaper article but not to include the headline. Explain that a good newspaper article always lets people know very quickly what it is going to be about. After you have collected all of the articles (you may want to bring some extras for those who forget), give an article to each student to read. Then, have the students underline the topic sentences in their paragraphs. When they are finished, have several students share their articles and topic sentences with the class. If desired, display the underlined newspaper articles near the **Create the Perfect Paragraph** poster under a heading titled **Topic Sentences at a Glance**.

Supporting the Main Idea

Challenge your students to a game of *Which One Doesn't Belong?* Write a different main idea on each of several



index cards, one for each student in your class. Give the cards to students and have each of them write a topic sentence on a piece of paper for a paragraph about their main ideas. Underneath those topic sentences, have them write three sentences to support the main idea and one sentence that does not support the main idea. Once they have finished writing, choose several students to read the main ideas on the front of the cards, their topic sentences, and randomly read their four sentences. After each reading, have the class decide which sentence does not support the main idea. If desired, place the students' papers at a center for extra practice.

Specific Words and Phrases

Give your students a place to record specific words and phrases to use in their paragraph writing. Make copies of the *Just the Right Words* reproducible found in this guide and give one to each student. Have students use the sheet to record specific words and phrases for their topics and refer to them as they write. Be sure to make extra copies and have them available for students to use for their writing assignments.

Sentence Length

Make copies of the *Create the Perfect Paragraph* reproducible found in this guide and give one to each student. Review each instruction on the poster together and then explain to students that they are going to work on varying their sentence lengths. Assign students a topic and have them write a paragraph with varied sentence lengths to provide an easy flow when reading. Choose several students to share their paragraphs with the class. Display the students' papers around the **Create the Perfect Paragraph** poster.

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Sentence Beginnings

Make copies of the *Create the Perfect Paragraph* reproducible found in this guide and give one to each student. Review each instruction on the poster together and then explain to students that they are going to work on varying their sentence beginnings. Assign students a topic and have them write a paragraph on the lines, remembering to vary the beginnings of their sentences to provide interest when reading. Choose several students to share their paragraphs with the class. Display the students' papers around the **Create the Perfect Paragraph** poster.

Connecting Sentences

Cover a bulletin board with butcher paper and title it *Connecting Sentences*. Use a piece of yarn to divide the board in half and title one side *Pronouns* and the other side *Transitional Words*. Have students brainstorm pronouns and transitional words to use when connecting sentences and share them with the class. As students share, have them label index cards or sentence strips

with the connecting words and attach them to the board under the correct headings. Remind students to use the board to help them when they are writing.

Closing Sentences

Make copies of the *Create the Perfect Paragraph* reproducible found in this guide and give one to each student. Review each instruction on the poster together and then explain to students that they are going to work on restating the main idea in a closing sentence. Use the *Main Ideas Cards* from the *Supporting the Main Idea* activity above to assign each student a topic. Have them write paragraphs on the lines, remembering to restate their main ideas in closing sentences. Have students use colored markers to highlight their closing sentences and then choose several students to share their paragraphs with the class. Display the students' papers around the **Create the Perfect Paragraph** poster.

Just the Right Words reproducible

Name _____

Just the Right Words

What is the topic of your paragraph? _____

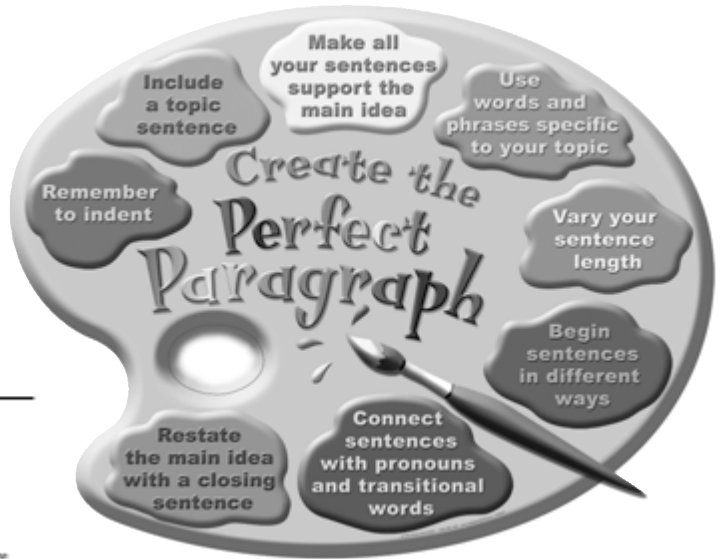
What are some words that would be specific for this topic? _____

What are some phrases that would be specific for this topic? _____

What words or phrases listed above will need to be defined for the reader?

Write their meanings on the back of this sheet.

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If necessary, use the back of this paper to complete your paragraph.