

## Perfect Paragraph Pocket Chart and Cards

Congratulations on your purchase of the Really Good Stuff® **Perfect Paragraph Pocket Chart and Cards**, an interactive, color-coded, visual display of focused, organized paragraph writing for all ages.

### Meeting Common Core State Standards

The Really Good Stuff® **Perfect Paragraph Pocket Chart and Cards** aligns with the following English Language Arts Standards:

#### Production & Distribution of Writing

**W.3.4.** With guidance and support from adults, produce writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task and purpose.

#### Text Types and Purposes

**W.1.1.** Write opinion pieces in which they introduce the topic or name the book they are writing about, state an opinion, supply a reason for the opinion, and provide some sense of closure.

**W.1.2.** Write informative/explanatory texts in which they name a topic, supply some facts about the topic, and provide some sense of closure.

**W.2.1.** Write opinion pieces in which they introduce the topic or book they are writing about, state an opinion, supply reasons that support the opinion, use linking words (e.g., because, and, also) to connect opinion and reasons, and provide a concluding statement or section.

**W.2.2.** Write informative/explanatory texts in which they introduce a topic, use facts and definitions to develop points, and provide a concluding statement or section.

**W.1.3.** Write narratives in which they recount two or more appropriately sequenced events, include some details regarding what happened, use temporal words to signal event order, and provide some sense of closure.

**W.2.3.** Write narratives in which they recount a well-elaborated event or short sequence of events, include details to describe actions, thoughts, and feelings, use temporal words to signal event order, and provide a sense of closure.

#### This Really Good Stuff® product includes:

- 1 *Perfect Paragraph Pocket Chart* with Storage Pocket on the back
- 30 *Cards* (10 narrative, 10 opinion, and 10 informative/explanatory with blank backs including Write-Again® wipe-off laminate for your instruction and student writing)
- This Really Good Stuff® Teaching Guide

The color and shape (cut-out indent) on this pocket chart (and cards) help to unlock the mystery of writing an organized, powerful paragraph. Following traffic light colors, the pocket chart *begins* with green (introduction or topic sentence), *slows down* with yellow (supporting details), and *stops* with red (conclusion). A pocket for a title and/or student author's name (or text type: opinion/persuasive, narrative, informative/explanatory) is provided at the top of the chart.

#### Managing the *Perfect Paragraph Pocket Chart and Cards*

- Display the pocket chart where students can easily see it and access it. Clean the cards with a dry cloth or an eraser.
- Organize the cards by their identifiers (1-a, 1-b, 1-c, etc.) so that you have narrative, opinion, and informative/explanatory paragraphs ready to display.
- Store the cards in the back pocket.
- Visit our Web site at [www.reallygoodstuff.com](http://www.reallygoodstuff.com) to download Really Good Stuff® Teaching Guides.

#### Introducing the *Perfect Paragraph Pocket Chart*

Prompt students to notice the colors and shape (cut-out indent) of the pocket chart, then solicit their thoughts. Ensure that they have concluded that the colors represent traffic light signals, with green for "Go!" (introduction or main idea), yellow for "Slow down!" (supporting details), and red for "Stop!" (conclusion or ending). Point out that the cutout represents an indent, which signals the beginning of a paragraph. Tell students that when they write longer pieces, they will indent (to start a new paragraph) when there is a change of action, time, place, or speaker.

Model, in shared and guided writing, the paragraph introduction first. Discuss effective hooks and starters, and compare them with obviously boring ones. Ask how likely each type is to capture a reader's interest. Avoid assigning full paragraph writing before students have mastered a good introduction and supporting details. Encourage students to write about things they know. They may wish to add other topics to the following list.

#### Writing Topics

Favorite Food	My House	My School
How To...	Best Friend	My Family
My Pet	Fire Drill	At Lunch
A Time I Felt...	Favorite Sport	Why I Should...
My Vacation	My Weekend	Our Furniture
My Books	A Collection	My Bike
After School	Favorite Holiday	All About Me

## Perfect Paragraph Pocket Chart and Cards

### Teaching the Three Parts of a Paragraph

**Green means “Go!”** This is the introduction. Tell students they need a powerful sentence to get their writing going. They might start with a question, a sound, an expression, internal monologue—anything to catch a reader’s attention. This sentence should reveal the main idea or the topic.

**Yellow means “Slow down!”** This is the body of the paragraph and consists of sentences that support the main idea. Tell more about the topic here, using details and interesting facts or ideas.

**Red means “Stop!”** This is the conclusion. Rephrase the topic sentence to wrap up your thoughts. This ending should summarize the ideas in the paragraph.

Use the narrative, opinion/persuasive, and informative/explanatory paragraphs printed on the cards (provided opposite) or paragraphs of your choice to show students how to construct a focused paragraph for appropriate tasks and purposes. You may vary the size of your handwriting on the cards in order to customize more lengthy or elaborate paragraphs.

Continue to display the pocket chart all year as a helpful visual reminder for students. Also use the pocket chart to showcase good student writing.

### Narrative

to develop real or imagined experiences

- Begin with an interesting introduction to hook your reader.
- Sequence the events with words that signal order (e.g., first, next, then, last, finally, after, before).
- Include details to describe actions, thoughts, and feelings (e.g., a confusing nightmare).
- Provide a conclusion that restates or summarizes the main idea.

**The Perfect Paragraph**  
**My Birthday Party**

Flick. “Surprise!” When the lights came on, everyone was smiling at me.

First, my family bear-hugged me. Next, I noticed blue balloons, streamers, and a cookie cake with my name on it. Then I spotted a pile of presents on the table.

Finally, I knew what was happening. I had always secretly wished for a surprise party, and my wish came true!

### Alternate Paragraph

**The Perfect Paragraph**  
**The Fire Drill**

The sound made me jump in my seat! We knew just what to do.

First, everyone quickly and quietly got in line. Next, our teacher led us down the hall and out the side door. A butterfly fluttered around us, like entertainment, as we waited for the bell.

Finally, the bell rang so we could return to class. I will miss that butterfly.

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**Opinion/Persuasive**

to tell and support your point of view

- State your point or opinion.
- Include reasons to support your opinion, and use linking words to connect them (e.g., another reason, in addition).
- Provide a conclusion that restates your opinion and the reasons that support it.

**The Perfect Paragraph**  
**I Deserve a Later Bedtime**

I have several good reasons why I should be able to stay up later.

First, I finish all my homework and chores before dinner. My second reason is that I get up on time to catch the bus. The third, most important reason is that I would like more time to read at night.

I have been responsible, so please consider granting me a later bedtime.

Alternate Paragraph

**The Perfect Paragraph**  
**My Favorite Holiday**

The best holiday is the 4th of July because all ages enjoy it. Americans of all ages are amazed at fireworks. In addition, all ages like to celebrate by gathering outdoors with friends and family. Also, there are no gifts to buy. Finally, it's a day off work. People of all ages look forward to this enjoyable national holiday.

**Informative/Explanatory**

to examine a topic and convey ideas

- Introduce the topic in an interesting way.
- Develop the topic with facts, definitions, details, or steps that support it.
- Use precise language and topic-specific words and phrases.
- Provide a conclusion that restates or summarizes the main idea.

**The Perfect Paragraph**  
**An Informative Paragraph**

There are three steps to writing an organized, informative paragraph.

Start by writing an interesting topic sentence that tells the main idea.

Second, provide the steps or facts about the topic. Third, write a good conclusion by restating the main idea.

An organized paragraph with these three parts is easy for the reader to understand.

Alternate Paragraph

**The Perfect Paragraph**  
**Cats Are Crazy Creatures**

There are several reasons that cats are considered amazing.

First, cats can see very well at night. Another reason cats are interesting is they sleep about 15 hours each day. Also, cats can jump 7 times their height. Finally, cats have sandpaper-like tongues. There is no question that cats have unusual qualities that make them special.

**Related Really Good Stuff® Products**

Organize Your Paragraph Banner (#159910)

The Perfect Paragraph Poster (#305938)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Title**

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**Introduction/Main Idea**

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**Supporting Details**

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**Conclusion**

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