

Answering Text-Based Questions: Paragraph Format

When we are writing, there are many times when adding **textual evidence** can make our writing stronger. In order to do this, we need to structure our writing so that the reader understands our thoughts and ideas clearly. We are going to focus on identifying the parts of a paragraph that **cites textual evidence**.

There are a few guidelines when writing a paragraph that cites textual evidence:

1. Answer using formal academic language (3rd person).
2. Answer questions (or questions) clearly and completely.
3. Provide strong and thorough textual evidence in your answer.

A **paragraph** is a distinct section of a piece of writing, usually dealing with a single topic and indicated by a new line and indentation. A paragraph does not have a set number of sentences. In professional writing, a paragraph may have as few as 2 sentences or as many as 15. In English I, we are going to focus on having all of the **components (parts)** of a solid paragraph and not a certain number of sentences.

A **paragraph** has some important parts that make it effective.

Topic Sentence:

- Gives your reader an overview of the topic
- Restates and answers the question.

Short Summary:

- Gives background information to set up your quote.
- Tells what is happening just before the textual evidence you cite

Signal Phrase:

- Signals to the reader that you are about to cite textual evidence
- In the same sentence as the textual evidence.

Textual Evidence:

- Is strong and thorough - Clearly supports your answer to the question.
- Appropriately cites the page number of the text.

Explanation:

- Explains the textual evidence and what it means.

Analysis:

- Refers back to the original question
- Clearly shows how the evidence provided supports your answer

Answering Text-Based Questions

Topic Sentence:		
Short Summary:		
Signal Phrase:	Textual Evidence:	Explanation:
Analysis:		