

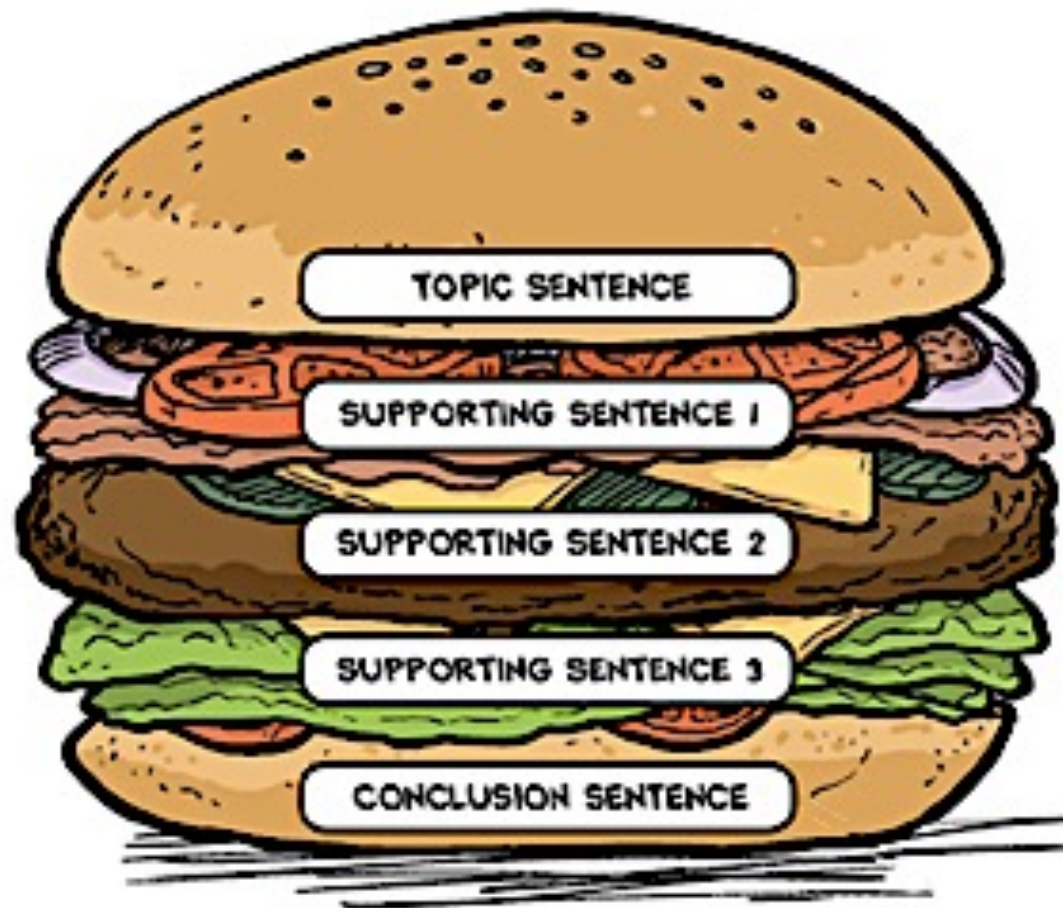
# ENGLISH 4 WRITING REVISION

Write an argumentative paragraph (of 120-150 words)

# Test format

1. Reading: U7 – U12
  1. Same content
  2. Different questions (True/ False, Short answers,...)
  3. Focus on: Rules, Technology
2. Writing: argumentative paragraph
3. Listening: U7 – U12 (True/ False, Short answers,...)
4. Speaking: 15 topics

# The structure of a paragraph

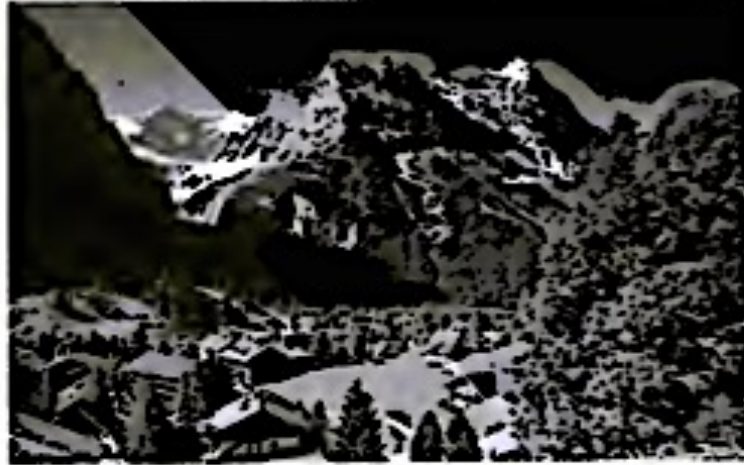


- ▶ The top bun is your topic sentence.  
The sentences that come next are your supporting detail.
- ▶ They are like the lettuce, tomato and hamburger patty in the middle.
- ▶ Holding everything together is the bottom bun of the hamburger. It is a concluding sentence.

## **Switzerland** — Something Interesting at Every Turn

*By Ken Jones*

If you dream of travelling to a country with beautiful mountains, delicious food, wonderful places to go sight-seeing and polite people, you should visit Switzerland. If you look at the map, the first thing you notice is that



Switzerland has many mountains, including some of the highest in Europe. Climbing or skiing down the mountains is great fun. Another thing you will notice is that Switzerland shares its borders with five different countries: France, Germany, Italy, Austria and Liechtenstein. In fact, there are four official languages in Switzerland: German, French, Italian and Romansch. All these groups of people make Swiss culture very interesting. Finally, Switzerland has many cities and interesting places to visit. Cities such as Bern have modern buildings like the Paul Klee Zentrum, yet the traditional alpine refuges in the mountains show that the country's old traditions are still alive. All the people, places and things to see definitely make Switzerland a great place for a holiday.

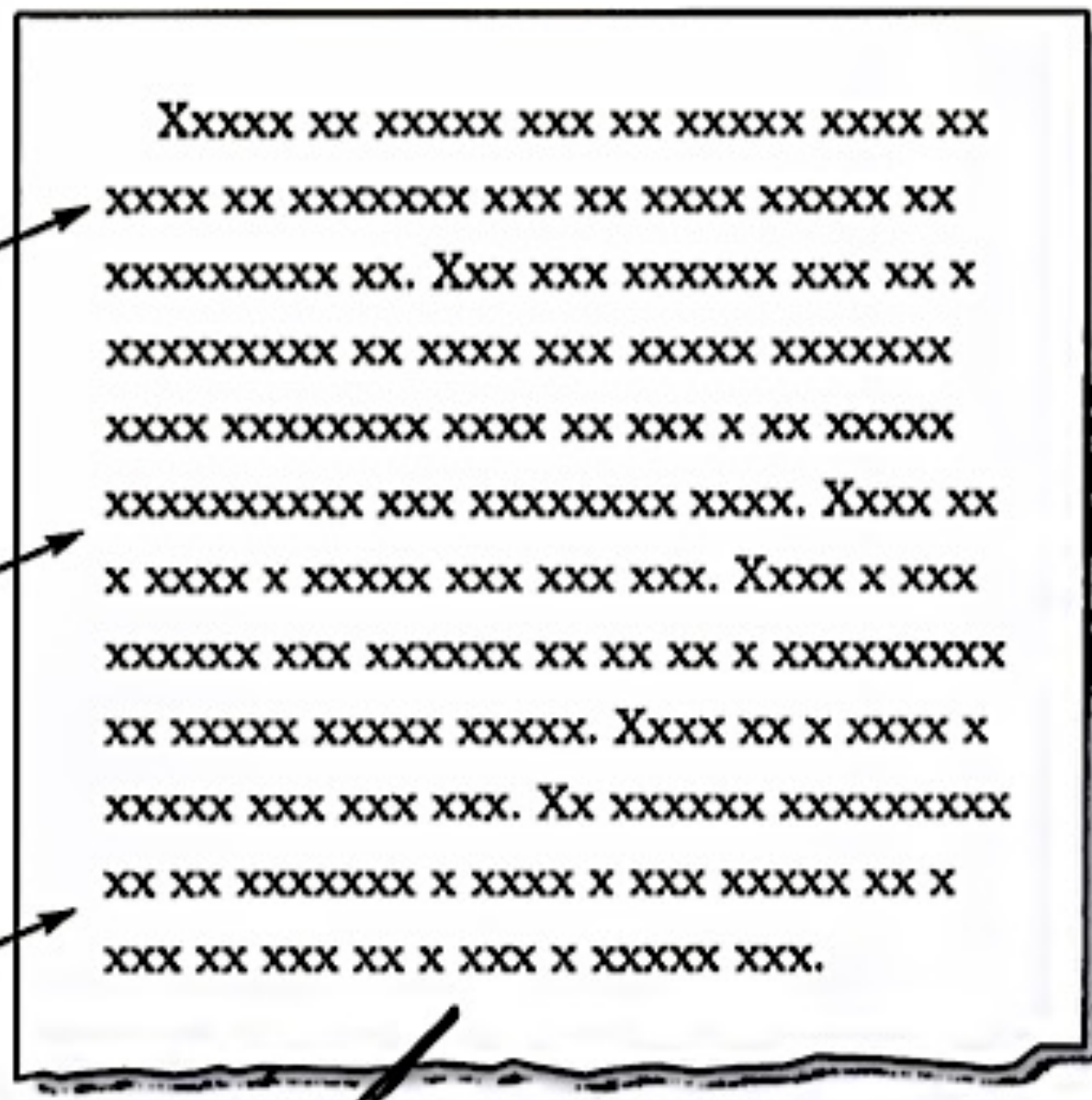
- a. What is the topic of the paragraph?
- b. What is the main idea about the topic?
- c. What ideas help explain the main idea?



## ➤ What makes a paragraph?

A paragraph has three basic parts:

1. **The topic sentence.** This is the main idea of the paragraph. It is usually the first sentence of the paragraph, and it is the most general sentence of the paragraph.
2. **The supporting sentences.** These are sentences that talk about or explain the topic sentence. They are more detailed ideas that follow the topic sentence.
3. **The concluding sentence.** This may be found as the last sentence of a paragraph. It can finish a paragraph by repeating the main idea or just giving a final comment about the topic.



These sentences are mixed up parts of one paragraph. Number the parts in order:  
1. topic sentence, 2. supporting sentences, and 3. concluding sentence.

*What should I study at university?*

- a. ....<sup>3</sup> *It wasn't an easy decision, but for the reasons listed above, I have decided to study journalism.*
- b. ....<sup>1</sup> *It can be difficult to choose a subject to study at university because there are so many choices, but by considering my skills and interests, I have decided to study journalism.*
- c. ....<sup>2</sup> *I have always enjoyed writing, so it is sensible to choose a subject that involves writing. When I begin working, I would like to have the opportunity to travel, and travel is often an important part of a journalist's job. Finally, I am also interested in photography, and pictures are very important in journalism.*

# Practice 2

Use words or phrases in the box to complete the sentences.

concluding sentence    indented    main idea    paragraph  
supporting sentences    topic    topic sentence

- a. The ..... is usually the first sentence in a ..... . It gives the ..... and the ..... .
- b. The first sentence of a paragraph can be ..... .
- c. The ..... come after the topic sentence, and they explain the topic sentence.
- d. The ..... comes at the end of a paragraph.

# What's the point of an argumentative essay?



- In argumentative writing, a writer takes a position **for** or **against** an issue and writes to convince the reader to believe or do something.
- Argumentative essays are written to get the reader to **accept** a point of view. In order to **convince** the reader, you need more than an opinion; you need facts or examples to back up your opinion.
- It attempts to be highly persuasive and logical.



# Before you start your argumentative paragraph

- First, you need to understand the question.
  - What do you have to do?
  - What issues do you need to cover?
  - What do you know about this issue? Make a list of points
  - decide if you are arguing for/against the statement.
- Next, you should have a draft of your essay. It would guide you as you begin to write
- Your writing should be more factual rather than emotional

# Sample Introduction

*“All students in public schools should wear uniforms”*. Do you agree?

School uniforms are the compulsory garments worn by students.

Over the years, wearing school uniforms have been the rule in many schools. Some people are opposed to the use of school uniforms.

However, uniforms play an important role in the education system.

The use of uniforms should continue because it saves money, it gives one a sense of belonging and it encourages equality among students.

# Body

- The body contains the reasons/points of your argument.
- The reason is stated with a topic sentence and is supported by supporting ideas or materials.
- These supporting materials can be either *examples, statistics, personal experiences, or quotations*.
- Give a scenario, especially when you want the reader to see a different point of view. Use cues for the reader e.g. *suppose if, what if, imagine...*

# Sample Paragraph

School uniforms would help make all the students feel equal. People's standards of living differ greatly, and some people are well-off while others are not. People sometimes forget that school is a place to get education, not to promote a "fashion show". Implementing mandatory school uniforms would make all the students look the same regardless of their financial status. School uniforms would promote pride and help to raise the self-esteem of students who cannot afford to wear stylish clothing.



# Conclusion

- A piece of argumentative writing usually ends by SUMMARISING the most important details of the argument and stating once again what the reader is to FOR or AGAINST.
- **Do not write any new points** in your conclusion.
- Write a personal comment of call for action. You can do this:
  - With a Question: Closing with a question lets your readers make their own predictions, draw their own conclusions.
  - With Recommendations: Stress or recommend the action you want the readers to take.

# Sample Conclusion

In conclusion, there are many benefits to implementing mandatory school uniforms for students. The use of uniforms should not be stopped because students learn better and act more responsibly by abiding to dress-codes. Public schools should require uniforms in order to benefit both the students and society as a whole.

# Connectives

Purposes	Example
<b>Adding new supporting information</b>	moreover, in addition, furthermore,...
<b>Offering a different viewpoint</b>	in contrast, on the other hand, however, nevertheless, despite, but, while,...
<b>Restarting a point for impact</b>	as stated earlier, to recap,...
<b>Explaining cause and effect</b>	as a result, because, consequently,...

# Sample topics

- *“Students are given too much homework.”*
- *“Laptops should be banned from the classroom.”*
- *“Country life is better than city life”*
- *“Honest people never win.”*
- *“To hate people is always wrong.”*
- *“Everything we learn is useful.”*
- *“Dreams are important in our lives.”*
- *“The small things that we own are the most precious.”*



Thank you for  
listening!