

Writing Paragraphs: Types of Paragraphs

Level: High School

- **Narrative Paragraph** -- tells a story about an event, adventure, scene, or happening
- **Descriptive Paragraph** -- describes specific sensory details about a person, place, or thing
- **Expository Paragraph** -- gives information, explains directions, or shows how something happens
- **Persuasive Paragraph** -- tries to convince the reader of the author's point of view

Read each paragraph carefully and decide whether it is a narrative, descriptive, expository, or persuasive paragraph. Label it appropriately in the blank.

1. **Paragraph Type (narrative, descriptive, expository, or persuasive)** _____

To be healthy, teens can exercise, eat nutritious foods, and keep themselves safe. First, participating in various kinds of fitness can keep them in shape. This can include walking, riding their bikes, and playing sports. Next, maintaining a nutrient-rich diet can help teens stay well. Three balanced meals and two wholesome snacks a day can keep their health on track. Finally, staying out of dangerous situations can keep teens healthy. Avoiding strangers, wearing seatbelts in cars, and checking smoke detectors are all great ways to accomplish this task. Teens who follow these tips will keep their bodies unharmed and in good physical shape.

2. **Paragraph Type (narrative, descriptive, expository, or persuasive)** _____

One of the oddest coincidences in my life happened when I left America to visit Seoul, South Korea. A friend and I wanted to visit a castle in Seoul, so we found some locals who agreed to take us to see it. As we were walking up some steps from one part of the grounds to another, I saw some people watching us from the top of the steps. When I got to the top, someone I had never seen before mentioned my sister's name and asked if I was her sister. I almost couldn't talk! How could these people know my sister, who lived in Australia? They explained that they were my sister's neighbors in Australia and that I looked just like her. It was the strangest experience in my life!

3. **Paragraph Type (narrative, descriptive, expository, or persuasive)** _____

Pets should be allowed in school for a number of reasons. First, they help students feel more comfortable. Some students feel very uncomfortable in a school setting, but taking along a pet gerbil or gecko might help students relax. Also, students can make friends more easily with a pet. A pet frog or tarantula can gather quite a crowd; and when students see what pets they have in common, they can unite around their common interests. Finally, pets can keep students safe. Who wants to bully a student who has a protective dog with him? For all of these reasons, students should be allowed to take their pets to school.

4. **Paragraph Type (narrative, descriptive, expository, or persuasive)** _____

Hanging on my bedroom wall is a picture of a train. Sometimes, when I'm lying on my bed, I take a closer look. The front of the train has a number of flags, but they don't look like today's American flag. Instead, these flags have stripes and a circle of stars. The train is at a station, and the conductor is walking toward the tracks in front of the train. Is he preparing to speak to all of the hat-wearing men and children behind him, or is he checking out the tracks? I can't decide. The clock on the post outside the station says it is about six fifteen, and I'm guessing that it's evening and not morning since it doesn't look dark. I can just imagine the smell of coal and hear the sound of the train as it snorts and breathes, chomping at the bit to get moving. The picture always makes me think about life in the past.

5. **Paragraph Type (narrative, descriptive, expository, or persuasive)** _____

All students should be required to learn how to use the internet. First, because the web gives students access to a tremendous amount of research from the comfort of school or home, they can save time doing research if they learn to use this resource. For example, if students want to write about poodles, they can easily go to a search engine and find all of the resources they could possibly want or need on the topic. Next, the internet allows instant communication with access to everything from email to Skype. Students who have access to the web can communicate with parents and friends during breaks, resolving issues or letting parents know about a schedule change. Finally, learning to use the internet will help students compete in the highly-competitive and technologically-savvy world. Many jobs today require employees to use the internet, and if students don't know how to do this, they will be stuck in lower-paying jobs. Clearly, the internet is a necessity in today's world, so all students should learn how to use it.