TEXAS Paragraph Writing

To write an effective paragraph, use the following formula: T+E+X+A+S.

**T: Topic Sentence**

This should use key words from the question and introduce the point you will make in the paragraph. Begin by borrowing from the question, or BBQ. For example, if the question asked, “Should a school require a uniform policy for all students?”, you could write a topic sentence that restates that in the form of a statement: Schools **should** require uniforms for all students” or “Schools **should not** require uniforms for all students.”

Now you try it, using the following prompt: *The school board is thinking of changing the school week to a four day week (M-Th) but the school day would be from 7 am until 4:30 pm for all students. Should the school board make this change? Why or why not? Write a thesis statement for this prompt.*

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**E: Expansion/Explanation**

Expand in your own words about how the point you are making answers the question. Make a connection between the prompt and your topic sentence.

Example: School uniforms should be required because it allows student to worry about their school work instead of how they look at school.

Now you try it. Write a second sentence for your essay about the school day. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**X: Example**

An example is used to back up the point you made in the topic sentence and expansion sentences. It is a real world, text, or detailed description of something that happened. For example, for the school uniform essay your example sentence might be: “Many students spend time during class worrying about how they look, the labels they are wearing, and the status of their hair instead of paying attention to the teacher and lesson of the day.”

Create an example sentence for your essay: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**A: Analysis**

In this stage you are explaining that you understand the MEANING and SIGNIFICANCE of your example. Thus, you should write a sentence which links your example back to the explanation sentence. For the school uniform example, one might say, “ This class time they are missing causes students to get behind on work and possibly get bad grades.”

Now, write your analysis sentence for your essay:

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**S: Summarize**

In this paragraph, you are writing a sentence that wraps up your argument. It is a rewording of your thesis statement. For the school uniform topic, an example of a summary sentence might be, “School uniforms for all students should be a requirement.”

Now, you try:

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