Name: **Date:**

What Makes a Paragraph?

Worksheet 1 of 5 from the Paragraph Writing series.

PART 1: Paragraph Parts Review

Directions: Read each paragraph below. Underline the **topic sentence**, circle the **supporting details**, and draw a box around the **concluding sentence**.

Example Paragraph #1:

The desert is home to many fascinating animals. Some, like the camel, have humps that store fat for long journeys. Others, like the fennec fox, stay cool with their large ears. Even the desert tortoise survives by digging deep burrows underground. *These unique traits help animals survive the harsh desert environment.*

Example Paragraph #2:

Rainy days can be surprisingly enjoyable. You can curl up with a good book and listen to the sound of raindrops tapping against the windows. It's also a great excuse to wear cozy clothes and drink hot chocolate. Some people even like to go outside with an umbrella and splash in puddles. There are many simple pleasures that come with a rainy day.

PART 2: Fix the Mixed-Up Paragraphs

Directions: The sentences below are out of order. Number them in the correct order (1–5) to make a complete paragraph.

A. ____ *That's why brushing and flossing daily is so important.*

B. ____ *Without proper care, teeth can develop cavities or even fall out.*

C. ____ *Taking care of your teeth is an important part of staying healthy.*

D. ____ *These habits keep harmful bacteria from damaging your gums and enamel.*

E. ____ *When you eat, food and sugar stick to your teeth and create plaque.*

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PART 3: Identify the Paragraph Problems

Directions: Read the paragraphs below. Then, answer the questions.

Paragraph #1

Pizza is my favorite food. My sister has a dog named Max. I like pepperoni the most. Pizza is also fun to make from scratch. That's why I eat it every Friday.

1. What is the **main idea** of the paragraph?

2. Which sentence **does NOT belong**?

3. What is the **topic sentence**?

Paragraph #2

Dogs make great companions for many people. They are loyal, friendly, and love spending time with their owners. My favorite video game is Minecraft. Many dogs can be trained to follow commands like "sit" or "stay." Some even help people with disabilities by working as service animals.

4. What is the **main idea** of the paragraph?

5. Which sentence **does NOT belong**?

6. What is the **topic sentence**?

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PART 4: Build Your Own Paragraph

Directions: Use the prompt below to write a complete paragraph. Be sure to include:

- A strong topic sentence
- 2–3 supporting details
- A clear concluding sentence

Prompt: *Write a paragraph about your favorite season and why you like it.*

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Answer Key

PART 1: Paragraph Parts Review

Example Paragraph #1:

The desert is home to many fascinating animals.
Some, like the camel, have humps that store fat for long journeys.
Others, like the fennec fox, stay cool with their large ears.
Even the desert tortoise survives by digging deep burrows underground.
These unique traits help animals survive the harsh desert environment.

- **Topic Sentence (Underline):** The desert is home to many fascinating animals.

- **Supporting Details (Circle):**

    - Camel's hump stores fat
    - Fennec fox stays cool with ears
    - Tortoise digs burrows

- **Concluding Sentence (Box):** These unique traits help animals survive the harsh desert environment.

Example Paragraph #2:

Rainy days can be surprisingly enjoyable.
You can curl up with a good book and listen to the sound of raindrops tapping against the windows.
It's also a great excuse to wear cozy clothes and drink hot chocolate.
Some people even like to go outside with an umbrella and splash in puddles.
There are many simple pleasures that come with a rainy day.

- **Topic Sentence (Underline):** Rainy days can be surprisingly enjoyable.

- **Supporting Details (Circle):**
    - Reading a book, cozy clothes, hot chocolate
    - Splashing in puddles

- **Concluding Sentence (Box):** There are many simple pleasures that come with a rainy day.

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PART 2: Fix the Mixed-Up Paragraph

Correct sentence order:

1. **C** – Taking care of your teeth is an important part of staying healthy.
2. **E** – When you eat, food and sugar stick to your teeth and create plaque.
3. **B** – Without proper care, teeth can develop cavities or even fall out.
4. **D** – These habits keep harmful bacteria from damaging your gums and enamel.
5. **A** – That's why brushing and flossing daily is so important.

Putting it together: Taking care of your teeth is an important part of staying healthy. When you eat, food and sugar stick to your teeth and create plaque. Without proper care, teeth can develop cavities or even fall out. These habits keep harmful bacteria from damaging your gums and enamel. That's why brushing and flossing daily is so important.

PART 3: Identify the Paragraph Problems

Paragraph #1

Pizza is my favorite food.
My sister has a dog named Max.
I like pepperoni the most.
Pizza is also fun to make from scratch.
That's why I eat it every Friday.

1. **Main Idea:** Pizza is my favorite food.
2. **Sentence That Does NOT Belong:** My sister has a dog named Max.
3. **Topic Sentence:** Pizza is my favorite food.

Paragraph #2

Dogs make great companions for many people.
They are loyal, friendly, and love spending time with their owners.
My favorite video game is Minecraft.
Many dogs can be trained to follow commands like "sit" or "stay."
Some even help people with disabilities by working as service animals.

4. **Main Idea:** Dogs are helpful and friendly companions.
5. **Sentence That Does NOT Belong:** My favorite video game is Minecraft.
6. **Topic Sentence:** Dogs make great companions for many people.

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PART 4: Build Your Own Paragraph

(Open-Ended Student Response)

- Check that the student:
    - Has a clear topic sentence (e.g., *"My favorite season is fall."*)
    - Provides 2–3 supporting reasons (e.g., *"The leaves change colors," "Halloween is fun," "The weather is cool and refreshing."*)
    - Ends with a conclusion (e.g., *"That's why fall is the best season of all."*)

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