

## 2: Definition Paragraph

The starting point for a definition paragraph is a simple definition\* which becomes the topic sentence of the paragraph.

**Topic Sentence** gives a simple definition

**Support Sentences** give more information through the use of examples, description or explanation

**Concluding Sentence** (usually unnecessary)

\* A simple definition has three parts: item, category and features.

ITEM	CATEGORY	FEATURES
A forsythia	is a flowering shrub	With yellow bell-shaped blossoms.
Herbivores	are animals	which feed on plants.
Change	is a type of process	which involves passing from one state or phase to another.

Examples of questions requiring a definition paragraph

1. What is venture capital?
2. Define 'over-fishing'.
3. What are longitudinal dunes?
4. What is meant by protein quality?

*Sample paragraph 1*

**What are longitudinal dunes?**

Longitudinal dunes are long low ridges of sand that lie approximately at right angles to the trend of the sand waves, or parallel to the direction of the wind. Some of the ridges are almost straight; others are slightly wavy. They range up to about 10 metres in height and 30 metres in width. Many are more than one and one-half kilometres long. Both sides of these dunes have practically the same slope and are usually covered with grass and shrubs. While the crest is usually bare of vegetation, on some dunes, even the crest is covered. Where this occurs, it means that wind action has stopped on this particular dune.

*Sample paragraph 2*

**What is meant by protein quality?**

The term protein quality refers to the ratio of essential amino acids (eaa) in a protein in comparison with the ratio required by the body. A high quality protein contains eaa in a ratio that matches human requirements. A protein, which is lacking or low in one or more eaa, is termed a low quality protein. The eaa, which is in the shortest supply, is called the 'limiting' amino acid. In general, animal proteins tend to be high quality while vegetable proteins tend to be low quality. The exception is soy protein, which is quite high quality.

## Tips for Good Definition Paragraphs

1. Start your paragraph with a dictionary or other authority's definition of the word or phrase you are writing about.
2. Add another point, your own, to this definition.
3. Tell your reader one thing that mother's day is not.
4. Choose another point and explain it here.
5. Choose one of the other points you can think of, and explain it here.
6. Choose another point and explain it here.
7. If you have another point, explain it here.
8. Finish with a conclusion, which reflects all that you mentioned in your paragraph.

**Here is an example. See if you can find all of the steps above in this example**

Webster's II New Riverside University Dictionary defines mother's day as "A day for honoring mothers and motherhood, observed annually on the second Sunday in May."

Actually, mother's day is a celebration, but it is much more too. For the family, it is not a normal day, busy with chores and work around the house, and empty of excitement. It is a day when children get up earlier than usual, and excitedly try to keep their plans for celebration secret from their mothers. It is a day when mothers pretend not to hear the kids excitement and preparations, and show absolute surprise when they, smiling and parading down the hall, carefully and awkwardly bring orange juice and overdone toast for her breakfast in bed, as a sign of love. Mother's Day is a day for remembering - a happy day for people who warmly think of their mothers, a sad day for those who no longer have them, and a day for most of the world to celebrate a very special member of the family - the mother. It is a day when kids and adults buy all kinds of gifts for their special women - from jewelry to food, to cards and flowers, and restaurants are full of families trying to give their mothers a day off from the kitchen.

## Your Definition Paragraph Checklist

<b>Check to see if:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
1. all of your sentences relate to the word you are trying to define		
2. the order of the sentences is the best possible		
3. you need to add examples		
4. your transitions are good		
5. your main idea is clear		
6. your conclusion relates to what you have just defined		
7. you have used quotations correctly when using other people's ideas		
8. you have any spelling or grammatical mistakes		

**Task 2:**

a. Definition Paragraph

Your Topics are: **Anger / Happiness / A corkscrew / K-pop / .....**

Please choose **ONE Topic** only.

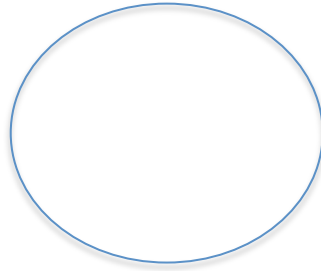
Please write 1 paragraph

(As a class, before we write, we will think about and discuss how we can complete this task ...i.e. *What tense should we use? What vocabulary should be use?...etc.*)

**P.S.** *If you need help ask me. Please refer to your Writing Guide & Transition Words in your notebook*

## Task 2: Definition Paragraph

### Pre-writing: Brainstorming



### Pre-writing: Outlining

**Task 2:** Definition Paragraph

**Writing:** The First Draft / Revising / Proofreading / The Final Draft)

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