

Writing Paragraphs → Supporting Details

Level: Elementary School

Every paragraph depends on how well the main topic is supported. The topic sentence makes a claim about something, and the following sentences must contain supporting details showing why that claim is true. This is why those details need to be strong and interesting, and must relate directly to the topic. The success of the paragraph depends on these details.

Read each paragraph, and then choose which sentence provides supporting details that best replaces the brackets.

A) Every good friend you have should show some important qualities. Strong loyalty is one of the best traits of a friend, because that means he or she will always stand up for you. [... missing sentence ...] And most of all, a friend is willing to forgive you if you make a mistake and are sorry about it. When you both show these important attitudes to each other, you will be friends for many years.

- _____ Friendships sometimes don't last, because people change.
- _____ Honesty will get you through hard times, because it creates trust and confidence.
- _____ Competing with a friend will often create hard feelings.

B) George Washington, the country's first president, set the United States on a strong course right at the beginning. He had already shown the people how they could win battles when it looked, at first, like they would lose. Then, during his term, he started many processes in government that presidents still use today. [... missing sentence ...] Thanks to Washington's leadership, the new country was set on the right path for the future.

- _____ Jefferson was upset at Washington for not supporting France in a war with Britain.
- _____ Washington turned to farming after he retired from being president.
- _____ He won approval from all Americans, which made the country strong when it was just starting.

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C) Even when we live far away, there are still many ways to help people in a country that suffers a natural disaster. [... missing sentence ...] We can also organize community events to raise money to send through the Red Cross. And almost everyone has clothes and blankets they can donate, to help people who have lost their homes. Even students in school can do a lot to help people across the world who are in need.

_____ One of the best ways to start is to raise money through a school fundraiser.

_____ We can all go over as tourists to view the damage, and take lots of pictures.

_____ The question is whether it's our job to help other people or not.

D) Computers and tablets are being used more and more for studying in school. One reason is that students will grow up in a world where they will be using computers for most jobs. So they need to learn to use computers as early as they can. [... missing sentence ...] And some companies are even making textbooks into files that can be used on tablets. Computers are now being used all through society, so it's not surprising that their use in schools is also growing.

_____ People can learn computers later in life and still find jobs.

_____ There's nothing students enjoy more than texting during class.

_____ Computer games are also used to help students learn thinking and reasoning skills.