

# PARAGRAPHING

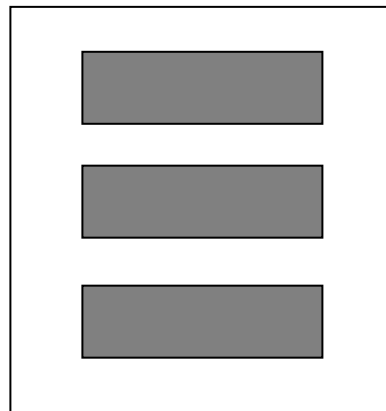
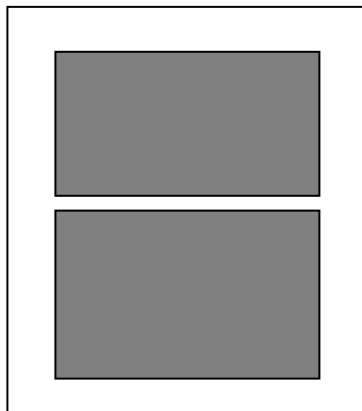
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Paragraphs are units of thought with one idea developed adequately. Listed here are some rules of thumb to use when paragraphing. These are only suggestions to help guide your writing. You must also consider your own purposes as you write.

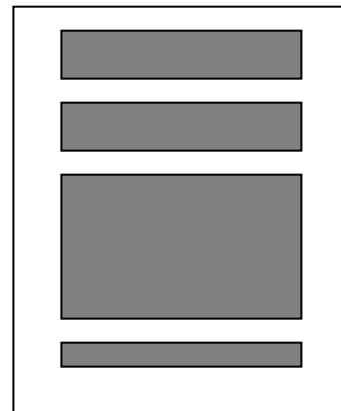
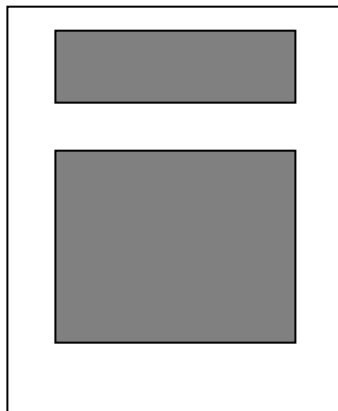
- Put only one main idea per paragraph.
- Aim for at least 3 to 5 sentences per paragraph.
- Make your paragraphs proportional to your paper. Since paragraphs do less work in short papers, have short paragraphs for short papers and longer paragraphs for longer papers.
- If you have a few short paragraphs, think about whether they are really parts of a larger paragraph and can be combined. If not, can you add details to support each point and thus make each into a more fully developed paragraph?

**You can see whether or not your paragraphs are balanced by looking at your paper.**

**Some balanced pages:**



**Unbalanced pages with ideas not equally developed:**



(over)

Use this page to organize your paper with one main idea in each box.  
Use as many pages and boxes as you need.

Page 1

Introduction

Page 2

Page 3

Page 4

Conclusion