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**Level : L1**

**Module :CWE**

**Lecture1 : Narrative paragraph**

1. Definition :

* A narrative paragraph tells a story. Something happens first, second, third, etc. Of course, narrative paragraphs are used in fiction as a writer describes the unfolding of events, but they are also found when describing any actual sequence of activity.

2. Organization:

Topic sentence:

* What the story will be about
* When and where the story took place

Supporting sentences:

* Details of the story including the sequence of events and sensory details
* The writer’s feelings may also be included

Concluding sentence:

* Concludes the story and may include a comment about why the experience was important or how the writer felt after it

Example 1:

I remember when I first arrived in the United States. Even before the plane landed, the little windows in the airplane revealed snow and ice-covered houses and buildings. As I walked off the plane, cold air crept through the corrugated ramp that led to the airport terminal. Some people inside the airport were wearing big coats and hats, which I had seen on television, but never so close. I felt a little dizzy and needed to sit down, and then my cell phone rang. It was my Aunt Sophia. She was waiting for me outside in the passenger pick-up area, so I went to the luggage area, took my suitcase and walked quickly to the exit. When the sliding glass door opened to the outside, there was my aunt wearing a parka and waving her arms frantically in my direction. I ran to her. She hugged me. Finally I felt secure.

Explanation:

The topic sentence in this paragraph is the first sentence, ***I remember when I first arrived in the United States***. It sets the background for the story. The supporting sentences that follow should be about this experience and how it is still remembered. The concluding sentence brings the story to an end and gives the writer’s feeling.

Example 2:

  John's day began with a shock. As soon as he arrived at the office that morning, he learned that his best friend was dead. Wasn't it just twelve hours ago that they were eating chicken wings and tipping back beer in front of a baseball game at the Cooper's Bar and Grill? After a long day of crunching numbers at the office, they stopped at a bar for a Thursday afternoon happy hour. They saw a few coworkers there, and before they knew it, it was closing time. Bill got in a car with someone he met just that evening and that was the last time John saw him.

Explanation:

It is not necessary to always go directly in a chronological order. An event that happens last can appear first in the paragraph. In fact, this is another way to arouse interest in the reader. As long as the paragraph seems fairly logical, the writer has a lot of creative freedom in writing this kind of a paragraph.

**Tutorial (TD) 1**

a) Think of a happy experience you had. Then answer the following questions.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Question | experience |
| When did the experience take place? |  |
| How long did it last? |  |
| Where did the experience take place? |  |
| What clear and specific memories do you have of the experience? (put them in order) |  |

b) Write a paragraph of 10 lines about a happy experience you had using the clues in the table above.