

Advanced Writing Workshop - Paragraph Structure

Lesson One: The Writing Process



Today's Class



welcome quiz

setting goals for this workshop

speaking English versus writing English

review the writing process

begin writing task one

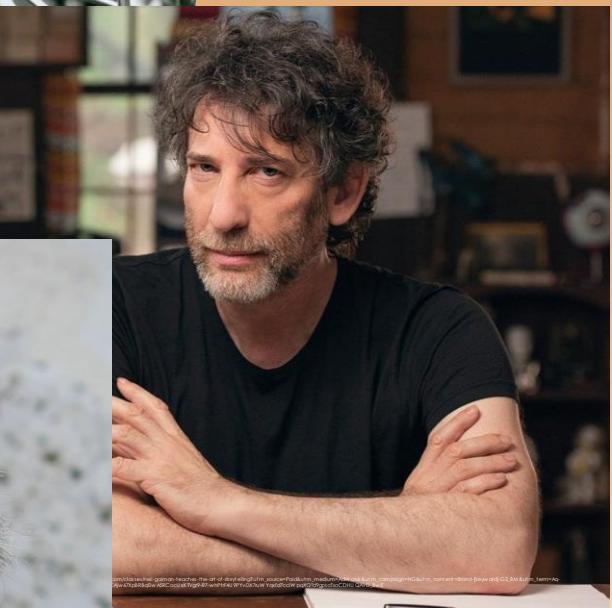
welcome quiz



Your settlement and language learning network



A) A book is a dream you hold in your hand.



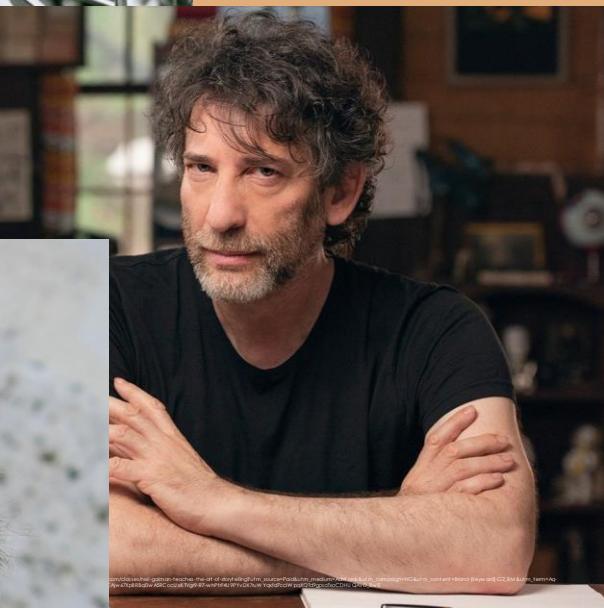
B) If you want to change the world pick up your pen and write.



C) Description begins in the writer's imagination, but should finish in the reader's.



<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Martin-Luther-King-Jr>



<https://www.npr.org/2020/04/08/829298135/stephen-king-is-sorry-you-feel-like-youre-stuck-in-a-stephen-king-novel>

A) A book is a dream you hold in your hand.
-Neil Gaiman

B) If you want to change the world pick up your pen and write.
-Martin Luther King Jr.

C) Description begins in the writer's imagination, but should finish in the reader's.
- Stephen King



your goals



Your settlement and language learning network

HOW IT FEELS TO WRITE AFTER A LONG TIME



1) Why are you studying writing?

What are your three goals for this writing workshop? Be specific.

2) Why is it important to studying writing, and not only speaking?



<https://pixabay.com/photos/woman-typing-writing-macbook-865111/>

English in Writing



Your settlement and language learning network

Which text is spoken? How do you know?

A

Bonnie: What are you working on?...A new shelf?

Erika: No,...I'm trying to decide whether to tear down this wall.

Bonnie: Oh...seems risky.

Erika: Yeah...I'm not sure...not sure at all.

Bonnie: Good to take your time, then.

B

Bonnie: What are you working on? Are you going to build a new shelf?

Erika: No, I'm not going to build a shelf rather I'm trying to decide whether or not to tear down this wall.

Bonnie: Oh! That plan seems risky.

Erika: Yeah, I'm not sure. I'm not sure at all.

Bonnie: Good idea to take your time, then.

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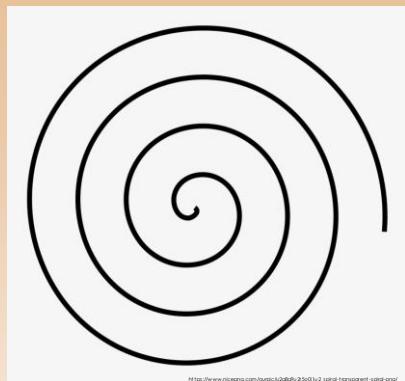
Bonnie: Oh! **That plan** seems risky.

Erika: Yeah, I'm not sure. I'm not sure at all.

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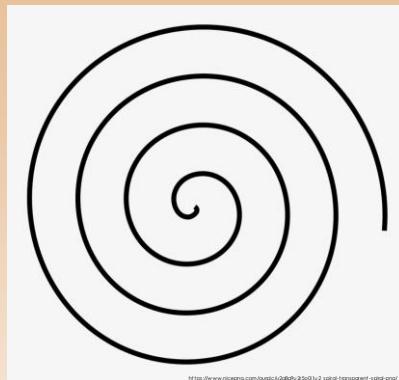
Do different cultures organize paragraphs in the same way?

No, for example some styles of Mandarin paragraphs, such as those between friends, are structured differently than English paragraphs. The differences can be illustrated like this:



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Mandarin

Introduce different ideas slowly and introduce at the main idea at the end.

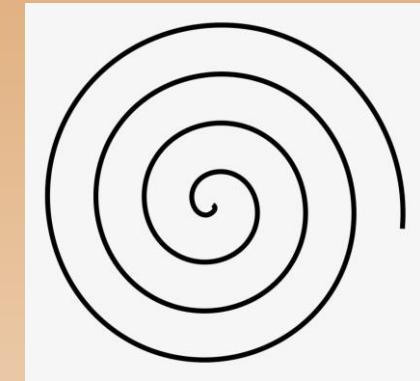


English

Introduce the main idea, give examples, and return to the main idea.

As a child, some of my favorite novels were exciting science fiction ones such as *Dune* by Frank Herbert and *Journey to the Center of the Earth* and the *Time Machine* by Jules Verne. By reading these books I could imagine being transported to strange places in time. *Dune* was about a strange alien world of the future while the Verne novels were usually about going to strange places in the past. In *Journey to the Center of the Earth* the characters travel back in time as they go further into the Earth. As they near the Earth's center, they discover an exotic prehistoric world that time has forgotten. About the time that I was reading these books, I also became interested in *Godzilla*. I remember that when I first saw the movie *Godzilla*, I was very impressed with the size of the creature and its unusual characteristics, such as the fact that it was a vegetarian. Reading science fiction novels and watching such movies soon had giant flying reptiles, huge lizards, and dinosaurs running or flying through my imagination. Maybe that is the reason I decided to become a zoologist. For all these reasons and others, if I could travel back in time to another historical period, I would go to the Prehistoric Age. It would be incredibly exciting to try to survive along side the dinosaurs and it would be fascinating as a zoologist to study such animals.

Mandarin style



If I had a time machine, I would choose to go to the Prehistoric World because of the excitement, the food, my ability to see the future, and the possibility of scientific discovery. Imagine standing with an ax, wearing a yellow bikini made from wild animal fur with black spots. How exciting! Imagine going out everyday to hunt mammoths or dinosaurs, and never knowing if you would live or die—what a thrill! More than this, can you imagine eating the meat that you had killed; how do you think a low-fat brontosaurus steak would taste? It would be great for my diet! But how could I cook it? Would there be soy sauce in the Prehistoric World? Of course I wouldn't have to cook it myself because I'd be the most important person in the clan. I could foretell the future. The other members of the clan would make a religious group named after me called Mika Tanabe-Kyo. They would think I was a genius. But, on the other hand, it is doubtful whether they would believe all of the things that I would tell them. Finally, I would love the Prehistoric World because I am a zoologist and could investigate many extinct animals such as mammoths, dodos, and Japanese wolves. I am sure I would be able to discover new species of animals that we don't even know about today. Yes, the Prehistoric World would be the world for me—except for no air-conditioning and no ice cream—maybe I would rather stay at home!

English style



summary

We study writing because we use language differently than when we speak.

We study paragraph structure because the rules are different between cultures.



the writing task



Your settlement and language learning network

Writing task this week:

Describe your opinion of houseplants.

There are **five steps** that take you from reading the writing task prompt to sending me an amazing piece of writing!



If you don't have a houseplant right now, consider adding one to your house. Houseplants enrich your home although they require effort to keep alive. A plant adds life to a room, and every time you enter you'll find yourself checking the if the plant has changed and admiring it's shape. Different plants create different moods, exotic or familiar, but all of them, from strangely shaped rainforest flowers or regular spider plants, enhance the décor in a room. The downside is that a healthy plant requires continual monitoring. You need to keep an eye on their water levels, and ensure that they're getting enough sun especially when winter begins. Even inside, pests can invade and damage your plants so you need to remain vigilant! The effort you spend is worth it though for the life a plant infuses into your home!

Houseplants enrich your home although they require effort to keep alive.

- A. needs continual care (stop pests, sufficient sunlight and water)
- B. adds life to a room because they are fascinating to watch grow
- C. adds to the décor and mood of a room because of the shape of the plant and the pot



the writing process



Your settlement and language learning network

1

- write down all your ideas
- write your topic sentence

2

- review and edit your outline – balance your ideas
- review and edit your topic sentence

3

- write the first draft (don't worry about perfection)
- **take a break (15 minutes to a few hours)**

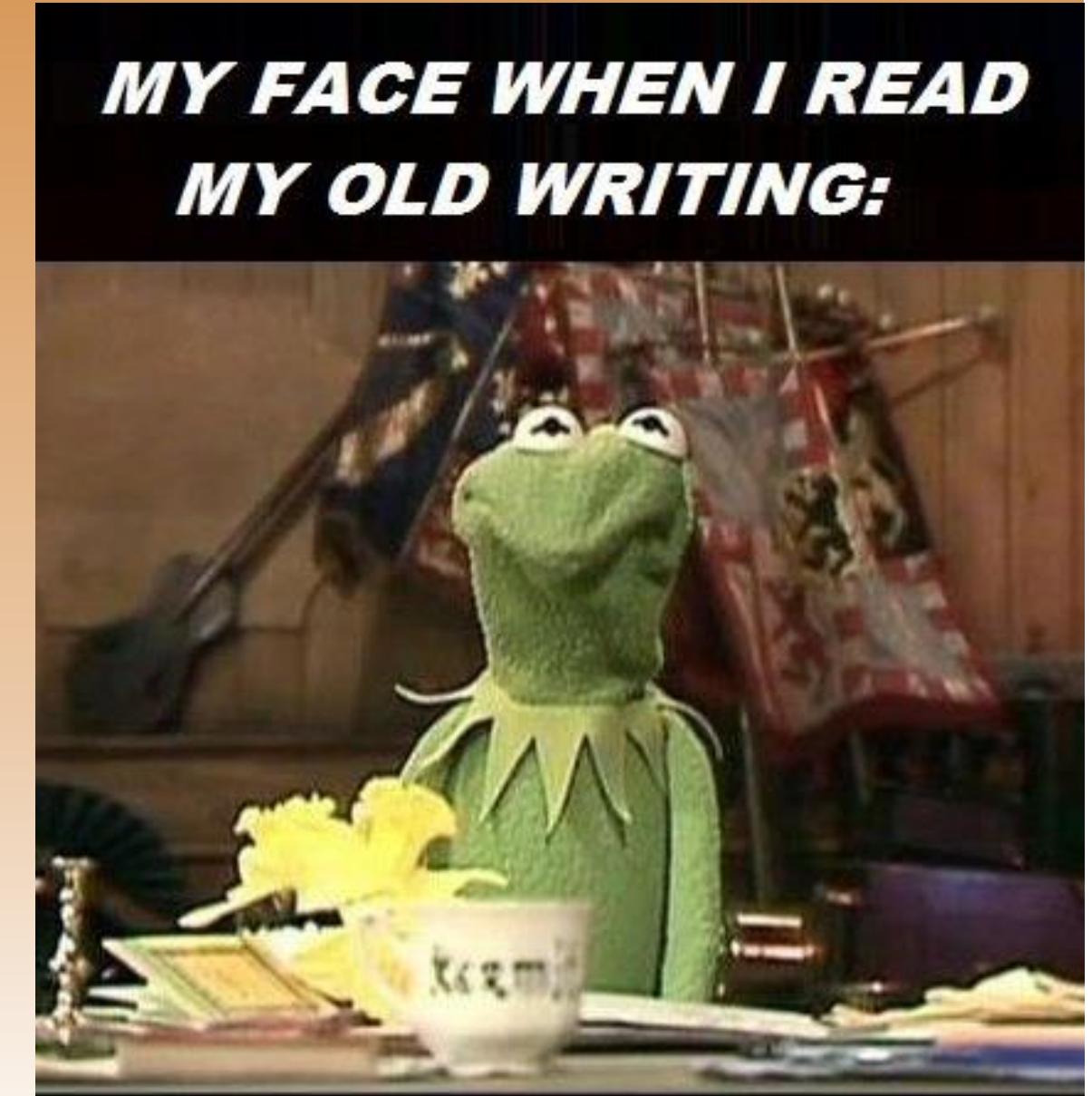
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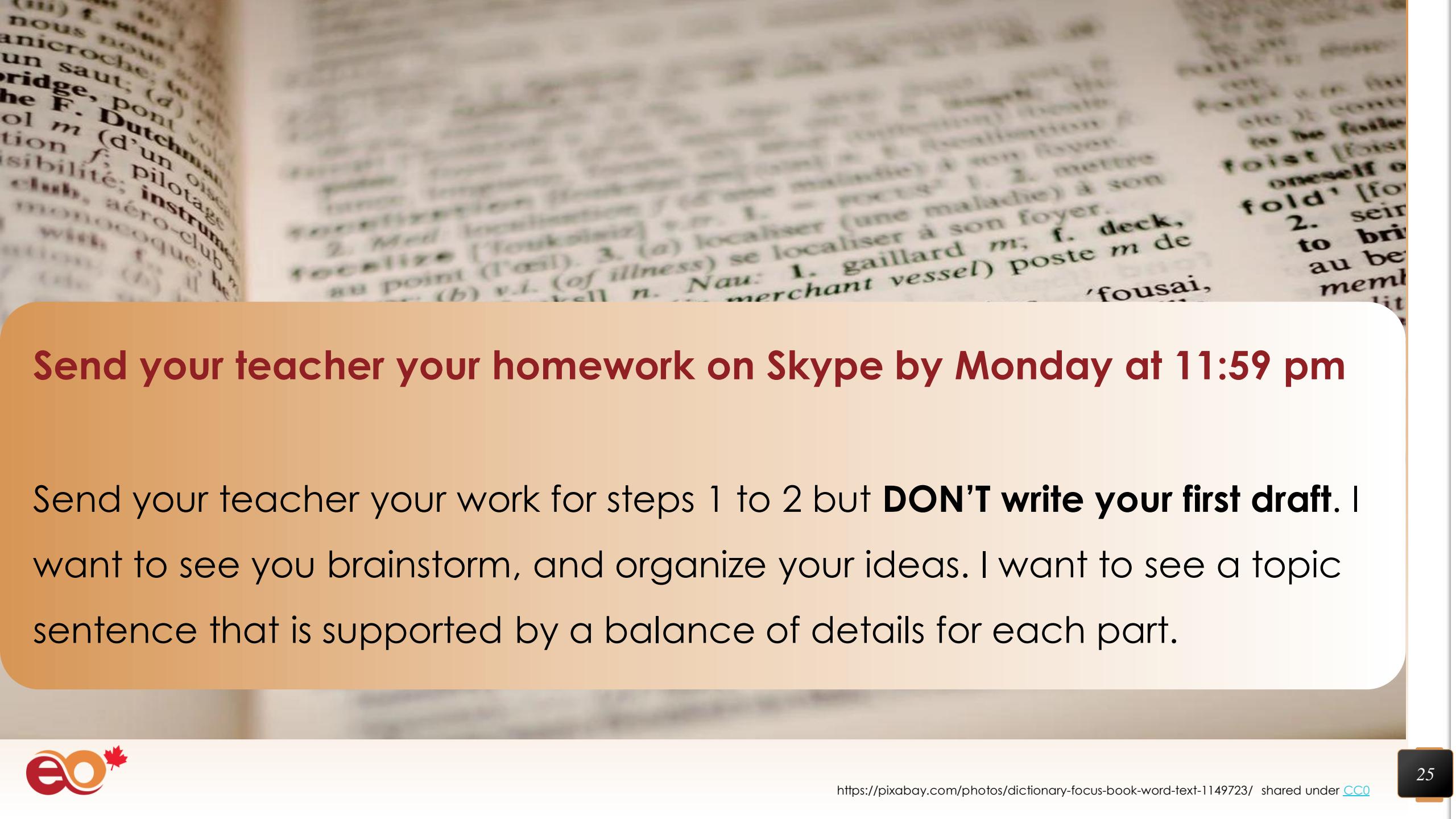
- check your paragraph is balanced
- do any general editing

5

- read the second draft out loud (worry about perfection)
- send your paragraph to your teacher

Let's look at an example of moving through the five steps!





Send your teacher your homework on Skype by Monday at 11:59 pm

Send your teacher your work for steps 1 to 2 but **DON'T write your first draft**. I want to see you brainstorm, and organize your ideas. I want to see a topic sentence that is supported by a balance of details for each part.



Definitions and sentences adapted from the online Longman, and Merriam-Webster dictionaries.

Paragraph descriptions and examples (slide 10 to 13) taken from *Paragraph Power: Communicating Ideas Through Paragraphs* by George M. Rooks.



Questions?

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Thank you!



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