

# Paragraph Development



✓ First do some sort of brainstorming. For example, use the clustering method.

✓ **Introductory Paragraph:** Let's imagine you are going to write a paper on the vegetable you find the most disgusting! ☹️

1. Cluster a list of all the vegetables you dislike. Decide on which one you want to write on. Put the other disliked vegetables aside for now—you can use them later in the introductory (first) paragraph.
2. Do another cluster for the one vegetable you will write on. Put all the disgusting points about that vegetable into the bubbles.
3. Now write a thesis statement announcing the particular vegetable you are writing about. For example:
  - “I am not fond of Cabbage.”
  - “I really dislike spinach.”
  - “Okra is disgusting.”
4. You now have what you need to write the first paragraph. Get out your “leftover” list of the other disliked vegetables. Work the extras into the beginning then finish with your thesis statement. For this example, we'll use “okra” as the most disliked and the one you most want to write about.

There are many vegetables I have problems eating. I am not really fond of cabbage. My mother says I have always disliked spinach too. Sometimes it is the smell of the vegetable that makes me dislike it. Other times it is the taste of the vegetable that I have a problems tolerating. **My dislike of all of these vegetables is mild compared to my disgust at even the thought of okra.**

\*(The last sentence in **bold** is the thesis statement.)

✓ **Body Paragraph:** Each body paragraph has a topic sentence. (A topic sentence announces the subject of that paragraph.) The topic sentence is the single idea (or main idea) which controls that segment of the essay.

A primary reason I dislike okra is its texture. (topic sentence)

\*The topic sentence is always followed with **at least one support statement**.

A primary reason I dislike okra is its texture. I am repelled by the slimy goo which boiled okra leaks into its surroundings. (support statement)

\*The support statement should be **expanded with commentary statements**.

A primary reason I dislike okra is its texture. I am repelled by the slimy goo which boiled okra leaks into its surroundings. This texture reminds me of mucous expelled from my body when it is in respiratory distress with a bad cold! I cannot even express how disgusting this texture is to me. I cannot get past the idea to even eat the stuff. (commentary statements or “comments”)

\*The pattern of support and commentary should be followed until you have said everything you have to say about the texture of the vegetable. You then need to close the paragraph with a clincher statement which is similar to the topic sentence.

Even though there are other reasons I dislike okra, its texture is enough to turn me off completely. (clincher statement)

✓ ***The complete paragraph:***

A primary reason I dislike okra is its texture. I am repelled by the slimy goo that boiled okra leaks into its surroundings. This texture reminds me of mucous expelled from my body when it is in respiratory distress with a bad cold! I cannot even express how disgusting this texture is to me. I cannot get past the idea to even eat the stuff. Even though there are other reasons I dislike okra, its texture is enough to turn me off completely.

**Pattern for a Body Paragraph**

Topic Sentence  
    Support Statement  
        Comment  
        Comment  
Clincher!

\*Note that the ***pattern of support sentences followed by comments*** can be continued until all the material related to the topic sentence has been used.

☺ Source: “Meditations” by June Pixton Gaede

\* [www.ronjones.org](http://www.ronjones.org)