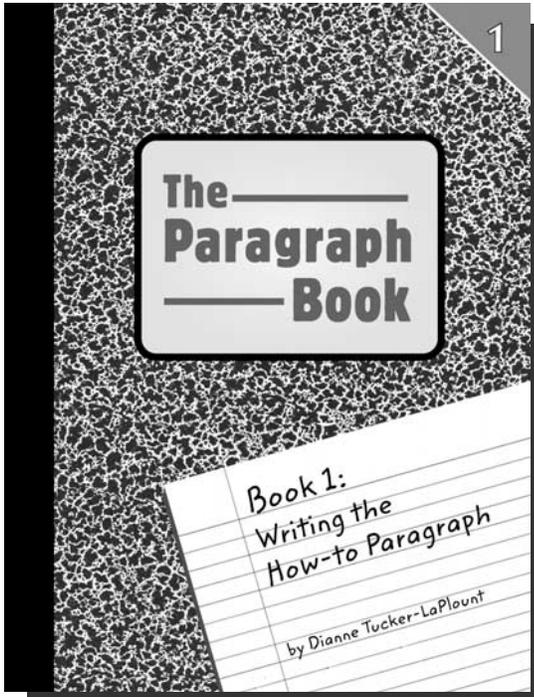


The Paragraph Book

Book 1: Writing the How-to Paragraph



By Dianne Tucker-LaPlount
Recommended for grades 5–8

Designed for the middle school LD student, *The Paragraph Book* follows a clear and innovative step-by-step format that provides instruction in the four basic strands required in content area curriculum and standardized tests. Examples, writing prompts, and chapter quizzes allow the instructor to model and assess and give student writers ample opportunities to apply new skills.

Lesson 1, taken from *Book 1: Writing the How-to Paragraph*, introduces students to the format of a How-to Paragraph and the FNTF formula for paragraph writing. It also introduces a graphic organizer and includes a review. Try this lesson with any students who have special needs in language arts.

Three easy ways to order:

Toll free: 800.225.5750
Fax: 888.440.BOOK (2665)
Online: www.epsbooks.com

Recommended Companion Material

See our *Companion Material* recommendations on page 11 for great materials that complement *The Paragraph Book series*.



EDUCATORS PUBLISHING SERVICE

A HOW-TO PARAGRAPH: EXAMINE CAREFULLY

Here's an example of a How-to Paragraph. Read the paragraph and look closely at how it is put together. See if you can answer the questions below.

How to Open a Jar of Pickles

First, place the jar of pickles on a counter. Next, hold the jar with one hand and grasp the lid with the other hand. Then, turn the lid until it is loose. Finally, lift the lid off the jar.

1. What is the title of this paragraph?

2. Why is this paragraph called a How-to Paragraph?

3. The purpose of the paragraph is to give instructions on how to open a jar of pickles. Can you tell the paragraph's purpose just by reading the title?

4. How many sentences does the paragraph have?

5. The formula for writing a How-to Paragraph is FNTF (*First, . . . Next, . . . Then, . . . Finally, . . .*). Does this paragraph use the FNTF formula?

6. Are the formula words in the correct order?

7. Which word does the first sentence start with? _____
8. What punctuation mark comes after that word? _____
9. Which three other words in the paragraph have a comma after them?

The writer of the paragraph on page 5 was given the title: *How to Open a Jar of Pickles*. He made a list of words that came to mind before he started writing the paragraph. He ended up using all of the words except *put* and *cover*. He organized his information in a flow chart using the FNTF formula.

Word List:

<i>put</i>	<i>hold</i>	<i>grasp</i>	<i>turn</i>	<i>lift</i>
<i>place</i>	<i>with one hand</i>	<i>cover</i>	<i>until</i>	<i>off</i>
<i>counter</i>	<i>the other hand</i>	<i>lid</i>	<i>loose</i>	

Title:

How to Open a Jar of Pickles

FIRST:

place jar on counter



NEXT:

grasp lid



THEN:

turn lid until loose



FINALLY:

lift lid off

THE COMPLETE PARAGRAPH

The writer then wrote the paragraph on another piece of paper, like this:

	<i>How to Open a Jar of Pickles</i>
	<i>First, place the jar of pickles on a counter. Next,</i>
	<i>hold the jar with one hand and grasp the lid</i>
	<i>with the other hand. Then, turn the lid until it</i>
	<i>is loose. Finally, lift the lid off the jar.</i>

In four sentences, he produced a complete, well-written paragraph.

VOCABULARY for Paragraph 1: How to Get a Glass of Water

glass	kitchen
faucet	sink
running	turn



Now how do I get a glass of water?

Title:

FIRST:



NEXT:



THEN:



FINALLY:

REVIEW OF LESSON 1

Circle the letter in front of the correct answer.

1. A paragraph is a group of sentences that are closely related. Read the two groups of sentences below. Which group is a paragraph?
 - a. In New Mexico, there is a mountain of rock almost 300 feet high called Sky City. The mountain is flat on top. Native Americans have lived in this tiny city on top of a mountain for over 800 years.
 - b. When the toast burns, our smoke alarm goes off. For best results, tomato plants need plenty of sunshine and water. An alligator can go for many months without eating.

2. A formula is like a
 - a. recipe.
 - b. cake.
 - c. smoke alarm.
 - d. puddle of water.

3. A How-to Paragraph tells
 - a. a story.
 - b. how to do something.
 - c. about your feelings.
 - d. about time-travelers.

4. The order of words in the FNTF formula is
 - a. *First, ... Next, ... Then, ... Finally, ...*
 - b. *First, ... Then, ... Next, ... Finally, ...*
 - c. *First, ... Finally, ... Then, ... Finally, ...*
 - d. *First, ... Finally, ... Next, ... Then, ...*

5. The FNTF formula is used in writing a
 - a. word.
 - b. letter.
 - c. sentence.
 - d. How-to Paragraph.

6. The purpose of a How-to Paragraph is to
 - a. tell a story.
 - b. give instructions.
 - c. invite someone to an event.
 - d. announce an event.

7. You can tell the purpose of a How-to Paragraph as soon as you read the
 - a. paragraph.
 - b. last line.
 - c. title.
 - d. first word.

8. When you write a How-to Paragraph, pretend you are giving instructions to someone from the past. This will help you make the instructions in your paragraph
 - a. clear.
 - b. long.
 - c. confusing.
 - d. disorganized.

9. A topic is
 - a. the top of the page.
 - b. what the paragraph is mainly about.
 - c. the first sentence of a paragraph.
 - d. the last sentence of a paragraph.

Number correct: _____ out of 9

Lesson 1 QUIZ Now your teacher will give you the quiz for Lesson 1.

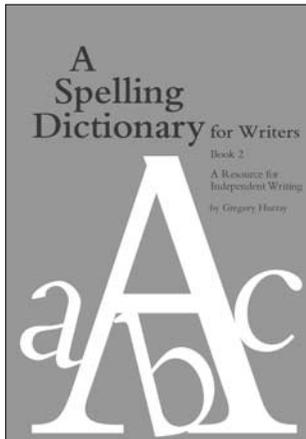
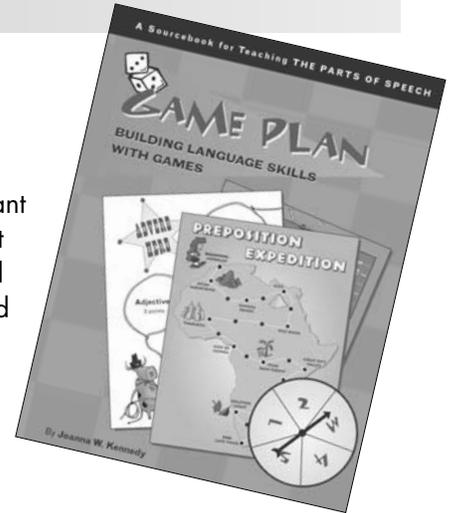
Recommended Companion Material

EPS offers a wide range of products and programs that complement the language arts activities in *The Paragraph Book*. We recommend the following products to help students develop their grammar and language skills.

Game Plan: Building Language Skills with Games

Recommended for grades 4–8

Game Plan is a new series of reproducible sourcebooks for teaching important elements of the English language. Designed for middle school LD or reluctant students, the books teach language arts skills in cooperative, interactive, and meaningful ways. Each volume provides minilessons, student worksheets, and skills-based games. *Game Plan* is a great supplement to the middle school reading and writing curriculum.



A Spelling Dictionary for Writers, Book 2

Recommended for grades 5–8

This comprehensive but accessible reference tool provides the correct spellings of more than 5,000 frequently used words. A thesaurus offers alternatives for overused words and expressions, and thematic lists help students write about the major curriculum areas. An excellent resource, *A Spelling Dictionary* improves students' compositions and fosters competent and resourceful writers.

Ridgewood Grammar

Recommended for grades 3–5

These grammar worktexts teach students to use correct mechanics for clear, effective writing. Each lesson gives definitions and examples followed by exercises. Writing activities allow students to practice new language arts concepts in context.



For more information about these series or to place an order, visit www.epsbooks.com or call 800.225.5750 to speak to a customer service representative.



EDUCATORS PUBLISHING SERVICE