

PARAGRAPHS: USING EXAMPLES

A paragraph takes shape when we make a point and go on to back it up. For experienced writers, "following through" is second nature. They make a general statement and immediately follow through with examples or details that show what they have in mind.

The characteristic adventure stories of the English-speaking peoples have been stories in which the hero fights against odds. *This is true all the way from Robin Hood to Popeye the sailor....* (George Orwell)

Americans used to be isolated from the rest of the world. *My father didn't know whether Korea was in the Caribbean or the Mediterranean, or whether the Zaire was a Spanish dance, a Hindu god, or a chocolate bar. He didn't care, and he didn't have to care....*

Each of the following paragraphs starts with a topic sentence. It then goes on to a brief first example to back up the general points. Fill in a detailed second example that would help complete the paragraph. (Use one or more sentences.)

1. *Outstanding sports figures have often become the idols of young people searching for someone they can admire.* At the 1936 Olympics in Hitler's Germany, the black American track star Jesse Owens became a hero to young people around the world.

2. *We show our capacity for sentimental feelings by treasuring objects that have special emotional associations.* Parents will treasure a child's toy or some article of the child's clothing long after the child has grown up and left the house.

From: Guth, Hans P. New English Workbook. Wadsworth, 1985