Almustaqbal Uni.

Department of English

3rd year

Handout*/ Narrative writing*

Building up your paragraph

1. Choose a title which interests you.
2. Always indent the first sentence of your paragraph.
3. The first sentence should give the reader an idea of what the paragraph is about.
4. Write short complete sentence.
5. Keep to the subject.
6. Connect your sentences so that your work reads smoothly. Words like ‘but’, ‘since’, ‘although’, ‘after’, afterwards’, ‘meanwhile’ etc.
7. Work neatly, make sure that your writing is clear, your spelling and punctuation are correct.
8. Do not use abbreviations like don’t, haven’t, wouldn’t. They are not normally used in written English. Write out the words in full; do not, have not, would not.
9. Once you are done, read your work through and try to correct mistake you may have made in grammar.

**Tips for structuring and writing better paragraphs**

Whether you’re writing a short paragraph or a long paragraph, each should follow the same basic rules of structure. These elements help the coherency of your body paragraphs, tying them together to unify around an idea, or set up a narrative story.

1. Make the first sentence of your topic sentence. The first line of your first paragraph sets up what information is to come as your audience reads on.

2. Provide support via the middle sentences. These sentences include follow-up information to your key sentence or previous paragraph. Whatever idea you aim to convey, these sentences are where you convince your reader to believe or envision what you do, and give them everything they need to see your point of view.

3. Make your last sentence a conclusion or *transition*. Even if it’s not at the end of the piece, a conclusive sentence can refer to the last line of its own paragraph, which concludes a particular idea or train of thought before moving on to start a new line for the next paragraph. This next paragraph can continue on the same idea, but the ending of each paragraph should briefly summarize the information that was provided before moving on.

4. Use transition words. Transition words help tie together separate paragraphs, connecting them to form a coherent idea. Phrases like *“in addition”* or “*moreover*” can help readers track your ideas and understand how they relate to each other, making for a smoother, more pleasant reading experience.

**Narrative writing**

Taking the most literal meaning, narrative is really just *another word for* *story*. It’s the way in which a story is crafted through joining together different *events, experiences, or details* to make a complete tale.

Read carefully the following paragraph and answer the questions below.

Follow that bus

I jumped off the bus before it stopped and began walking down the street. As I had arrived early, I decided to look at the shop windows before going home. The idea made me quite happy, but at the same time I had the unpleasant feeling that I had forgotten something. I stopped in the middle of the pavement and began searching my pockets. All of a sudden I remembered that I was without my briefcase! I had left it on the bus and it was full of important papers. The thought was enough to make me start running down the street, though, by now, the bus was out of sight.

1. What do you learn in the first sentence and how is this related to the rest of the story?
2. What words and phrases are used to connect the sentences to each other?
3. What is the main idea in the story and in which sentence is it to be found?
4. How is each sentence in the paragraph related to this main idea?

**Home work**

Write one –paragraph (about 100 words) stories. Choose from the sentences one page 16. **Exercises, first sentences.**