



Types of paragraphs

INSTRUCTIONS: Read carefully each of the following paragraphs. After you finish reading, based on the information that they contain, choose the type of composition that was employed in the writing of each of them.

1. Why do we need a dog?

Our family needs a dog for the following reasons: protection, entertainment, and to teach responsibility. First, having a dog will ensure that our home is better protected because a dog can bark or fight off intruders, and will set us all at ease knowing that a dog has a protective instinct for those he/she is loyal to. Second, a dog can also bring entertainment to our household as well as help us all to stay active by taking him/her out to walk, run, or just play. Finally, and most importantly, a dog will teach us responsibility. Being in charge of taking care of an animal will teach us all many life lessons that will benefit us as we grow older. Our family needs a dog so that we can be better protected, for a great source of entertainment, and to teach us all lessons in responsibility.

- Choose the type of composition used in this paragraph:

2. "The Blond Guitar"

"My most valuable possession is an old, slightly warped blond guitar—the first instrument I taught myself how to play. It's nothing fancy, just a Madeira folk guitar, all scuffed and scratched and fingerprinted. At the top is a bramble of copper-wound strings, each one hooked through the eye of a silver tuning key. The strings are stretched down a long, slim neck, its frets tarnished, the wood worn by years of fingers pressing chords and picking notes. The body of the Madeira is shaped like an enormous yellow pear, one that was slightly damaged in shipping. The blond wood has been chipped and gouged to gray, particularly where the pick guard fell off years ago. No, it's not a beautiful instrument, but it still lets me make music, and for that I will always treasure it."

- Choose the type of composition used in this paragraph:

3. Peddling on my own

Learning how to ride a bike for the first time was a nerve-racking independent moment. I was about five years old when my sister informed me that I was too old to still be riding a bike with training wheels. That was the time I decided not to depend on them anymore. Even though I had some doubt, my sister and I went outside and started to take the little wheels off my bike. After my bike went through the transformation, I was now ready for the big moment. With butterflies in my stomach, I slowly got on the bike, and with my shaky hands, I gripped the handles tightly. Meanwhile my sister was holding on to me to help keep my balance. I was so afraid she would let go, yet I was determined to ride this bike on my own. Next with a little push from her, I started to peddle. The faster my bike went the faster my heart raced.

- Choose the type of composition used in this paragraph:

4. Mobile phone use places a financial burden on adolescents.

The use of mobile phones has severe financial implications for young people. For example, Smith (2014) argues that about 20% of teenagers have been driven to bankruptcy because they do not understand the debt accumulation for phone services. In addition, if a mobile phone is lost or stolen, a further debt may be incurred as the contract to pay for the phone still has to be serviced (Smith, 2014). A further concern is the early age at which mobile phone use begins, with a recent study of adolescent phone use revealing that the average age for under 18s to begin using mobile phones is 13, and many teenagers are spending more than half their incomes on bills (Dasey, 2015). Therefore, the evidence suggests that the financial impact on adolescents of the cost of mobile phones is sufficient to cause difficulties, suggesting the need to consider appropriate avenues to address the issue.

- Choose the type of composition used in this paragraph:

5. Awareness of heart disease

The leading cause of death in the United States is heart disease, which can be fatal if it leads to heart attack or cardiac arrest. Heart attacks occur when a blockage in the coronary artery prevents oxygenated blood from reaching the heart. Cardiac arrests occur when the heart stops pumping entirely, which prevents the patient from breathing normally. Both of these problems can be deadly, even in seemingly healthy people who don't have noticeable risk factors. As a result, heart disease is an important problem that many doctors and scientists are researching.

- Choose the type of composition used in this paragraph: