

Mr. Yesaki's Tips for Writing Paragraphs!

- 1) Make certain that each paragraph contains **one unifying main idea**.
(e.g. for the following paragraph the main idea will be how writing interesting characters is so important for any great story)
- 2) Make certain that each sentence in your paragraph gives **detail to support your main idea**.
- 3) Make certain that your writing is **at your grade level** or just above; challenge yourself to write with a variety of sentence styles and different adjectives (descriptive words) that you may not otherwise use.
- 4) Try to **engage your reader** with interesting language and your unique writing style; this will develop as you continue to practice! ☺



(So, here are a couple of **sample paragraphs**. The topic is “*What elements make a great story?*”)

Any great story must have interesting and engaging **characters**. When we are immersed in a story we hope to learn something from these characters. We either hope to cheer for the heroic selflessness of Captain America, be entertained by the charismatic charms of Iron Man, or find ourselves in awe of Thor’s power and recklessness. We see our own youthful emotions and fears revealed in the character of Harry Potter. And, we are happy when Elsa and Anna can reconcile their differences to realize that family is more important than anything. When a story has great characters, we care about what happens to them and we believe in

their conflicts like we believe in our own. A great character makes each of us look at the world and ourselves in a new and different way.

Next, a story that connects with its audience must have a **conflict** that is compelling. We must feel the pain, sense the danger, wince at the sadness, and laugh at the humour within a story. If the conflict in any tale is dull or unbelievable to us, then we will quickly lose interest in the plot. The worst criticism we can give about any story is that we did not care about what happens to the characters. This means that we never believed in the conflict as being realistic or compelling. We want the girl to end up with the boy she's been secretly crushing on for years. We enjoy seeing the villain who has been sadistically torturing innocent people defeated completely and utterly. We want to know if the shipwrecked heroes finally make it off the depressing, deserted island. When a conflict tugs at our heart, the storyteller has you spellbound in their journey.

Finally, it is key that any story ends in a way that satisfies the audience. The conflict needs to have a **resolution** that makes sense and an ending that solves some of the key problems that the characters have been struggling with during the story. If the conflict is not fully resolved, then the ending must at least alleviate the characters' troubles for the foreseeable future or at least leave you craving what certainly will be the next part of the story. When Thanos succeeded in killing half of the universe, we knew that the story has come to an end for the time but we also knew that the Avengers would return. Harry Potter's journey could not end until he finally dealt with the demon who had haunted his family for generations. Sometimes, we cannot wait until a story resumes and other times, we cherish an ending that is full stop. When you love a story, you care about the characters and you either do not want to part with them or you just want them to have peace and enjoy life. A great story ending gives everyone enjoyment, peace, or at times, both.

(These are sample paragraphs. Now write your own drafts! Remember, it's all about **practice**! Becoming a successful writer – like any skill – takes years of practice!) 😊

