

## **Proof Paragraph**

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Proof Paragraph is a writing strategy that is used to model for students how to develop a proof or conclusion with supporting evidence and an explanation of why it supports the claim. Using a “Think Aloud” or “Write Aloud” approach when introducing a new strategy to students can be very beneficial to students. As students are able to hear the teacher’s thinking while composing the sentences, they are able to make connections between their own writing and think about how they might improve their skills. As students see the product come together they are less reluctant to try the strategy out themselves.

### **How to implement the strategy:**

1. Prepare for the lesson by selecting the subject for the proof paragraph.
2. Plan how you will compose the paragraph to develop personal awareness of the decision-making processes you engage in while writing the proof.
3. Make note of the thinking and decision-making you go through and plan how you will model this for students during the write-aloud.
4. Tell students that you are going to show them a new type of writing and will verbalize your own thinking for them as you write so they can see the thinking that goes on when someone writes.
5. Tell students to pay attention to the decisions you make as you write as they will have to produce the same type of text themselves.
6. Tell the students you will be writing a “Proof Paragraph” and you will need to convince readers of the conclusion you have drawn after reading an article and you need to provide compelling, relevant evidence to support your decision.
7. As you write (using chart paper or document viewer), make your thinking visible by making verbal statements that describe your own decision-making processes.
8. Follow the format for the “Proof Paragraph” by modeling how to compose the topic sentence, evidence statement 1, evidence statement 2, evidence statement 3 and the conclusion statement.

Topic Sentence: Makes an assertion

- A. Evidence #1: Statement of evidence 1 and explanation of why it supports assertion
- B. Evidence #2: Statement of evidence 2 and explanation of why it supports assertion
- C. Evidence #3: Statement of evidence 3 and explanation of why it supports assertion

Conclusion Sentence: Refers to the assertion and evidence provides and provides closure

9. Have students record their insights or ideas in their notebooks to remind them of what they want to do when they write.

10. Have the students practice their own “Proof Paragraph” by providing assistance as needed.

Note: It is often helpful to use a graphic organizer, such as “Analyzing Text: Cite Evidence and Draw Conclusions,” for a text selection as the basis for writing a proof paragraph.

**Adapted from:**

- Gibson, Anna Lee. *Advanced Placement English Writing Manual and Literary Guide*. Wise, VA. Wise County Vocational-Technical Center. 1992.

**Additional Resources:**

- Sacramento Area Science Project  
<http://sasp.ucdavis.edu/resources-and-links>