Lesson 16: Paragraphs

Essential Question
How do writers organize their thoughts into paragraphs?

Materials
mentor text
anchor chart & student printable from lesson 15

Mini Lesson
Give students a copy of lesson 16 mentor text or display it on the board so that they can see it. Read the text together.

"Why does the author have blank lines between text?"

"Writing is broken into smaller chunks, called paragraphs, to give readers a chance to pause and keep the piece organized. Let's go through this piece and label the paragraphs." (introduction, reason and example 1, reason and example 2, reason and example 3 and conclusion)

Go back to the anchor chart from lesson 15 and have students add the introduction, conclusion and paragraph numbers to the chart.

Show students the paragraph editing sign so that they can use it when editing their masterpieces.

Work Time
Students will go back through their masterpiece and determine where they need to change paragraphs. They will insert the paragraph sign where needed. I suggest giving them color pens so that the signs don't get lost in their writing. If they are doing this on the computer, they can just add the paragraph break.

Closing
Students will teach their partner what a paragraph is and when they need a new paragraph in opinion essays.

Intervention
Have students verbally explain what will go into each of their paragraphs before they start writing.

Extension

Lesson 17: Topic & Concluding Sentences

Essential Question

How can authors use topic and concluding sentences to organize their information?

Materials

topic & concluding sentences anchor chart
mentor text
colored pens or pencils

Mini Lesson

Give each student a copy of the mentor text or display it so that all students can see. Read the entire text together or have students read it silently or with a partner.

"Today we are going to pay close attention to the way that the author starts and finishes her paragraphs. Underline the first sentence of each paragraph. This sentence is called the topic sentence because it tells the readers what this particular paragraph will be about." Go one paragraph at a time and discuss what each paragraph is about using the topic sentence as a guide.

"Now, use a different color and underline the last sentence of each paragraph. This sentence is called a concluding sentence because it ends the paragraph. The concluding sentence is a summary, or reminder, of the important information from the paragraph." Go one paragraph at a time and discuss the concluding sentence and how it restates the topic and important information.

Complete the anchor chart together using your essay topic or the example that I have provided.

Paragraph Topic	Topic Sentence	Concluding Sentence
Chipotle has variety.	Unlike our cafeteria, Chipotle has tons of options!	As you can see, serving Chipotle in our cafeteria would give students and teachers more choices for lunch.
Chipotle is a healthy lunch choice.	It is important for students and teachers to have a healthy lunch to keep their energy level high.	Clearly, Chipotle has the healthy options that students and teachers need for lunch.

Work Time

Students will revise their masterpiece to include a topic and concluding sentence for each of their reason paragraphs.

Closing

Students will share with their partner one topic sentence and one concluding sentence that they wrote today.

Intervention

Review the difference between topic and concluding sentences. Have students focus on just one paragraph at a time. Model the writing of a topic and concluding sentence for one of their paragraphs.

Extension

Encourage these students to use their topic sentence to hook the reader into reading the paragraph, similar to the way the lead hooks readers.

Lesson 18: Word Choice

Essential Question	Materials
How can writers make their words more interesting?	mentor text word choice anchor chart

Mini Lesson

"Today we are going to be learning how to make our words more interesting. Sometimes authors use boring words or use the same word over and over. When we replace those words with more interesting words, our writing becomes more exciting."

Read the lesson 18 mentor text to students or have them read it with partners. Ask students to share some examples of places in the text that the author used an interesting or unique word. (Examples: aroma, delightful, adore, assortment, witnessed)

Work together to fill in more interesting words or phrases for the underlined words on the anchor chart.

The book was <u>good</u>.	exciting suspenseful hilarious
Having a dog would be <u>fun</u>.	enjoyable entertaining
A computer would help me to <u>do better</u> in school.	succeed grow learn

Work Time

Students will go back through their masterpiece and look for places where they used boring words such as: nice, very, said, cool, etc. They should also look for words that they used repeatedly. Students will replace the boring words with words or phrases that are more interesting.

Closing

Give students a sticky note and have them write one boring word and how they made it more interesting. If you use a hard copy anchor chart- have students stick their notes to the chart. Alternatively, you can call on students to share one word that they made more interesting.

Intervention	Extension
Look at students writing and highlight several words that you want them to change to be more interesting.	Allow students to use a thesaurus.

Lesson 19: Transitions

Essential Question	Materials
How can authors use transitions to make their writing clearer?	transitions anchor chart mentor text

Mini Lesson

"It is important that we help our readers follow our essays from beginning to end by using transitions. Transition words also help writers change from one idea to another and to point out evidence. Listen to the mentor text and see if you can hear any transition words or phrases."

Read the lesson 19 mentor text to students or have them read it with partners.

Fill out the anchor chart together.

Sentence Starters	Giving Reasons
In my opinion, I think, I feel, I believe	First, To start, To begin with, Next, Another reason, Most importantly, Finally, One last reason
Giving Examples	**Concluding**
For example, For instance, Additionally, In fact	In conclusion, As you can see, To sum it up, To summarize

Work Time

Students will reread their masterpiece and look for places to add transitional words and phrases. Every reason and example should have a transition and some sentences might start with one. Not every sentence should have a transition!

Closing

Students will share with their partner a paragraph in their writing that they have added transition words or phrases.

Intervention	Extension
Have these students focus on just reasons and example transitions. Before they start working, be sure to have them explain to you when to use each type of transition word.	Encourage these students to use all four types of transition words.

Lesson 20: Conclusion

Essential Question
What makes a conclusion strong and memorable?

Materials
mentor text
conclusion anchor chart

Mini Lesson
Read the lesson 20 mentor text or have students read it to each other.

"Today is our last day of revising and we are going to focus on our conclusion paragraph. This paragraph is very important because it is the last words that our audience will read. It is what they will remember most about our essay."

Reread just the conclusion from the mentor text.

"The conclusion includes three parts that make it so effective. Let's look."

Fill out the anchor chart together using the mentor text as the example.

Transition Words or Phrases	so, in conclusion, in addition,
Call to Action (What does the author want you to do?)	Go talk to your principal today!
Restate the Opinion	School uniforms are the answer!

Work Time
Students will revise their conclusion so that it includes a transition, a call to action and restates the opinion.

Closing
Students will share their conclusion paragraph with their partner.

Intervention
Give students highlighters or colored pencils to underline the three components in their own conclusion.

Extension
Encourage these students to use a fact, quote or story in their conclusion.

Topic & Concluding Sentences

Paragraphs start with a topic sentence and end with a concluding sentence!

Paragraph Topic	Topic Sentence	Concluding Sentence

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WORD CHOICE

Make your words interesting!

The book was good.	Having a dog would be fun.	A computer would help me do better in school.

WORD CHOICE

Make your words interesting!

The book was good.	Having a dog would be fun.	A computer would help me do better in school.
exciting suspenseful hilarious a page-turner a must read	enjoyable entertaining	succeed grow learn

TRANSITIONS

SENTENCE STARTERS

REASONS

EXAMPLES

CONCLUDING

TRANSITIONS

SENTENCE STARTERS

In my opinion, I think, I feel, I believe

REASONS

First, To start, To begin with, Next, Another reason, Most importantly, Finally, One last reason

EXAMPLES

For example, For instance, Additionally, In fact

CONCLUDING

In conclusion, As you can see, To sum it up, To summarize

CONCLUSION

Every opinion essay conclusion needs these things!

TRANSITIONS	CALL TO ACTION	RESTATE THE OPINION

CONCLUSION

Every opinion essay conclusion needs these things!

TRANSITIONS

so
in conclusion
in addition

CALL TO ACTION

go talk to your principal today

RESTATE THE OPINION

School uniforms are the answer!

Topic & Concluding sentences

Paragraphs start with a topic sentence and end with a concluding sentence!

Paragraph Topic	Topic Sentence	Concluding Sentence

WORD CHOICE

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Having a dog would be <u>fun</u>.	
A computer would help me <u>do better</u> in school.	

TRANSITIONS

SENTENCE STARTERS

REASONS

EXAMPLES

CONCLUDING

CONCLUSION

End strong!

transitions

call to action

restate the opinion

Kids Should Participate in After-school Activities

Day 16: Organizing Writing into Paragraphs

Do you ever get bored when you get home from school? Do you enjoy your school friends but would like to make even more friends? Or do you have a lot of energy that you need to get out? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you should sign up for an after-school activity. There are so many activities out there that kids can participate in after school. Karate, dance, and sports are just a few examples of activities you might be interested in. Here are some reasons I feel kids should sign up for an after-school activity.

First, you can meet a lot of new friends. Whatever your interest is, hip hop dancing, football, taekwondo, you could meet a group of new friends who have the same hobby as you! Making new friends means more people to share your happiness, sadness, and excitement with. You will have another group of people to cheer you on and share your time with. Also, you'll have more kids to play with when you have nothing to do.

Another reason to sign up for an afterschool activity is you can get rid of some of that saved up energy. Of course it's fun to play video games or watch television. However, those activities definitely do not help a kid's energy level. Let's face it, kids have a lot of energy. Activities like soccer, karate, and even ballet, not only help kids get out some of that bottled up energy, but they also provide great exercise. We know that kids need a lot of exercise! So, signing up for an after-school activity will not only lead to good health, but it can also help keep you fit.

Finally, signing up for an after-school activity will keep you from saying that dreaded phrase that makes your parents cringe, "I'm bored." In fact, you won't have time for boredom. You'll get home from school, do your homework, and then get ready for the activity you signed up for. Having less down time may also keep you out of trouble. When kids get bored, it often leads to trouble. Keeping busy with an after-school activity will make you and your parents very happy.

All in all, signing up for an after-school activity will leave you with more friends, healthy and busy. Let's not forget how happy you'll be once you're busy doing something you love. Which, in return, will have your parents happy as well.

Children's Screen Time Should Be Limited

Day 17: Topic and Concluding Sentences

By the time children have turned eight years old, 96% have watched TV, 90% have used a computer, 81% have played video games, and 60% have played games or used apps on a portable device. These devices include any of the following: cell phones, handheld gaming systems, iPods, or tablets. These numbers are high and can be worrisome for parents and adults. Many researchers say that too much screen time can lead to some major problems in kids. However, I believe that some screen time for children is okay, but it should definitely be limited.

One reason I believe that screen time should be limited for children is it will give more time with friends and family. For example, many children can be observed playing electronics at restaurants while sitting and waiting for their meal with their family. This would be a great opportunity to talk about their day, or upcoming events they are excited about. Another time that electronics can be substituted for quality time is in the car. Some children have televisions in the car, and watch movies when they are traveling around. This would be a great time for families to point out and talk about things they see on the road as they pass by. Or they could play a fun road trip game with their brothers or sisters. Limiting screen time in situations like these can help kids create more memories with family and friends.

Secondly, if children have limited screen time, it can allow more time for exercise. Instead of laying around watching movies or playing video games inside the house, they could be outside playing games. It's no surprise that kids need a lot of exercise! Especially if they spend much of their time inside the house, playing electronics. There are so many activities that they could be doing outside. For instance; riding bikes, going to a park, or even playing soccer or catch on a field. Children would have many more opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors and get in shape if their screen time is limited.

Last, if children had limited screen time it could give them more chances to be social, or talk more, with their friends. When children spend too much time at home, school, and out at different places looking down at their screens, it takes away from time they could be conversing with people. It is important for kids to see people's facial expressions and body language when they speak to them. This helps kids understand how people are feeling when they are having a conversation with them. This also helps children respond to the person they are talking to in an appropriate way. I believe when kids' screen time is limited, they can learn to socialize, and have better conversations with others.

All in all, limiting children's screen time can be helpful for any child. It can help them physically, as well as socially, and may even make them a happier kid.

Thanksgiving is the Best Holiday

Day 18: Word Choice

The air is crisp and there's a nice cool breeze blowing colorful leaves around outside. Meanwhile, inside the house is the aroma of baked turkey, fluffy hot rolls, and homemade cinnamon apple pie. Cousins and friends are playing together, while the parents are finishing up the delightful smelling dinner. Many of the guys are gathered around the television watching football. Finally, everyone in the family is called to the table to enjoy this wonderful holiday together. In my opinion, Thanksgiving is by far the best holiday.

The biggest reason that Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday, is because I get to spend quality time with friends and family. Many times we get so busy day to day with school and work, we don't get a chance to sit and visit with our family and friends. Thanksgiving is a time when my family spends most of the day together, discussing what's new in our lives and sitting outside enjoying the beautiful fall weather. We often will go around the table person by person and share with each other what we are most thankful for. Making these awesome memories with family and friends is the main reason I adore Thanksgiving.

Next, I love being able to eat the delicious variety of food all day long. We usually start Thanksgiving morning with cinnamon rolls and hot chocolate. They are usually dripping with icing and we get pretty messy when we eat them. Then, we begin making the different dishes we are bringing to Thanksgiving dinner. Sometimes we'll make cream corn, mashed potatoes with gravy, or stuffing. When we join our family for Thanksgiving dinner, the assortment of food only gets bigger! The dinner table is covered from end to end with turkey, pumpkin pie, apple pie, rolls, deviled eggs and cranberry sauce to name a few. Sometimes we are still snacking on leftovers well into the night. This is just another reason Thanksgiving is the best!

Finally, I can't wait for the morning of Thanksgiving to watch the Thanksgiving Day Parade on television. This parade originally started in 1924, and has been a Thanksgiving tradition ever since. If you have never witnessed the parade on television, you are missing out. The parade is full of singing, dancing, the most creative floats, and some of the best marching bands in the United States. Each year Santa makes an appearance at the parade. So, if you have not yet had the opportunity to observe this fantastic event, you need to make it a part of your next Thanksgiving.

As you can see, Thanksgiving is a pretty amazing holiday. It's filled with great food, lovely company, as well as one of the most entertaining parades around. Can you think of a better holiday than Thanksgiving?

Having Good Manners is Important

Day 19: Transitions

Have you ever invited a friend over to your house, they make a big mess, and leave without helping you clean up the mess? Have you ever spent a long time picking out a special present for someone, they open it, and toss it aside without saying thank you? Or have you ever been around someone who thinks it's funny to burp in your face, or take food off your plate without asking? These are all examples of bad manners and also why I strongly believe that it is important to have *good* manners.

One reason I think that it's important to have good manners is because you want people to have a good first impression of you. A first impression is someone's opinions or thoughts they have about you when they meet you for the first time. For example, when you meet someone for the first time, you might look them in the eye, shake their hand, and say, "nice to meet you." This first impression most likely will make the person feel welcomed and valued. In return, they might give the same respect to you, or invite you around more. When you display good manners, people enjoy your company more.

Another reason it is important to have good manners is it shows gratitude and appreciation. Anytime someone gives you something out of kindness, whether it's a friend, a parent, or a stranger, you should always say thank you. This shows that you appreciate the person's time and hard work. Once again, this helps the person feel valued and most likely will bring a smile to their face. Making others feel valued can make you feel good as well.

Most importantly, having good manners reflects positively on your parents, teachers, and other people who have helped mold you into the polite person you are. Many people in your life have taught you how to treat others with respect. Having good manners around others, like saying please and thank you, helping clean up after spending time at someone's house, or saying excuse me when you have something to say, all give credit to the people who helped raise you.

In conclusion, having good manners not only makes people enjoy your company more, but it also makes people around you feel respected. Showing good manners will honor the people in your life that have educated you on how to treat others. So help make some of those people proud, by using the good manners you have been taught.

Students Should Wear Uniforms to School

Day 20: Conclusion

In the past children who wore school uniforms mostly belonged to private schools. However, more and more public and charter schools have decided that school uniforms is what's best for their students as well. I have attended both schools that wear uniforms and schools that do not, and in my opinion, children should have to wear school uniforms to school.

To begin with, wearing a school uniform keeps students more focused on school than the name brands their friends are wearing. For example, I used to have a favorite football team that I loved. I really wanted a jersey with my favorite player's name on it, but the jerseys were always too expensive. One day my teacher was teaching math and one of my classmates walked in wearing that very same jersey I really wanted. I couldn't think about anything the teacher was teaching after that. All I could think about was that jersey my classmate had on. I pretty much missed the entire math lesson that day. If all the students in class had to wear the same shirts, students wouldn't be easily distracted with the clothes that other students wear.

Next, having students wear uniforms to school makes all the kids equal. Some kids' parents have the money to buy them the coolest and newest styles of clothing on the market. While other kids' parents can only afford to buy those brands every once in a while. In my family, when my older siblings grow out of their clothes, I get to wear them. Sometimes this means the clothes are pretty worn by the time they get to me. When students wear uniforms, it levels the playing field. Meaning, there is no jealousy or embarrassment about the clothes that some kids have or that other kids don't have. This can help all students feel like they belong.

Most importantly, having students wear school uniforms can create a sense of pride about the school they are attending. When students are wearing their school colors each day, it brings them closer together. It's similar to fans of a sports team wearing team colors to support their team. It makes all students in the school feel like they belong and are accepted.

So, in conclusion, wouldn't you love to attend a school where you always feel like you fit in? School uniforms are the answer! In addition, you could focus on the lessons being taught by your teacher and not have to worry about fitting in with the newest trends. If you agree with all of these reasons, then go talk to your principal today about having the students in your school wear uniforms.