

## Supporting sentences in an academic paragraph



After identifying a topic sentence, the next step is to support it with additional sentences that explain and elaborate on the **main idea**. These supporting sentences should provide **reasons** (the “**whys**”), and or the methods (the “**hows**”) related to the topic sentence. Essentially, they need to offer clear **explanations**, **citations**, **examples**, and **details** that help the reader understand the main point of the paragraph, the topic sentence. If the ideas are not well-developed, the reader may struggle to grasp the writer’s message, leading to confusion and a loss of interest in the text. In summary, supporting sentences play a crucial role in effectively conveying the central idea of the paragraph.

An example has been written for you.

*To achieve a university degree requires a thesis writing and its defense. The process of writing a thesis begins when a student selects a narrowed research topic that will contribute to the student’s field of study. To do so, the student needs to write many drafts to refine their work until their thesis supervisor deems it to be acceptable according to the academic standards of the institution. Essentially, the thesis must include several key sections such as an introduction, a literature review, a methodology, results and a conclusion. The writing procedure ends when the thesis writer presents and defends orally their research findings and answers questions posed by an academic jury, who are most of the cases professors in the field. The oral defense assesses student’s ability to conduct independent research, analytical and public speaking skills, time management as well as their proficiency in using digital tools. For example, the speaker needs to prove to the academic jury that they are knowledgeable in detailed about their own research from the beginning to the end. ....to continue.....*

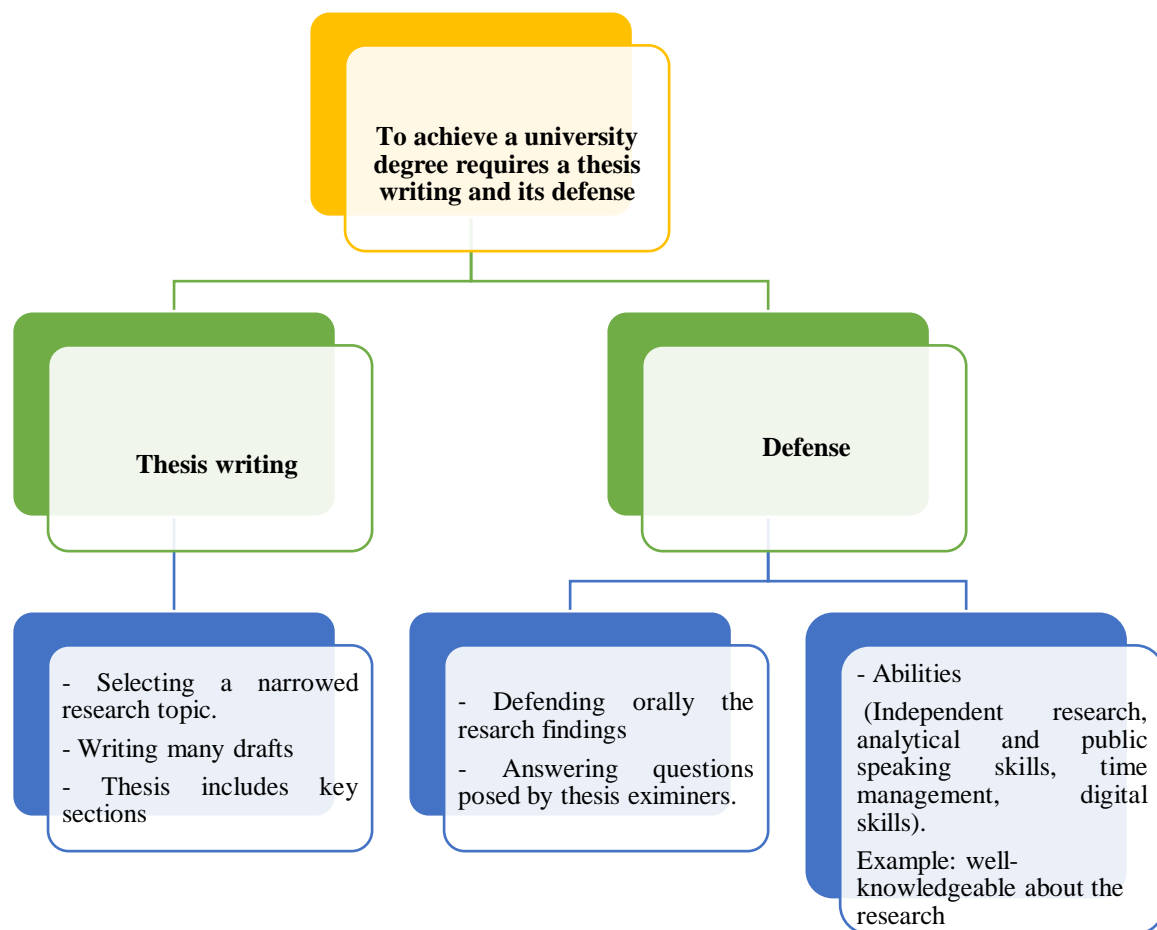
**Note:** how to write a **closing sentence** for the above paragraph, it will be explained later.

<https://youtu.be/L1J9ZPVydrC>

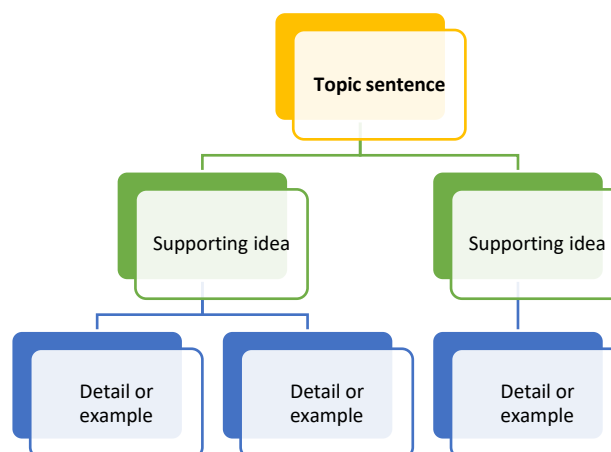
Finally, read the almost finished paragraph provided above and identify the explanations, examples, or details from the supporting ideas. Analyse whether the sentences clearly support the topic sentence. If they do not, improve the sentence(s). Discuss your analyses with a classmate and provide feedback as well.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.


The almost finished paragraph from above is represented into a graphic organizer for a better understanding.

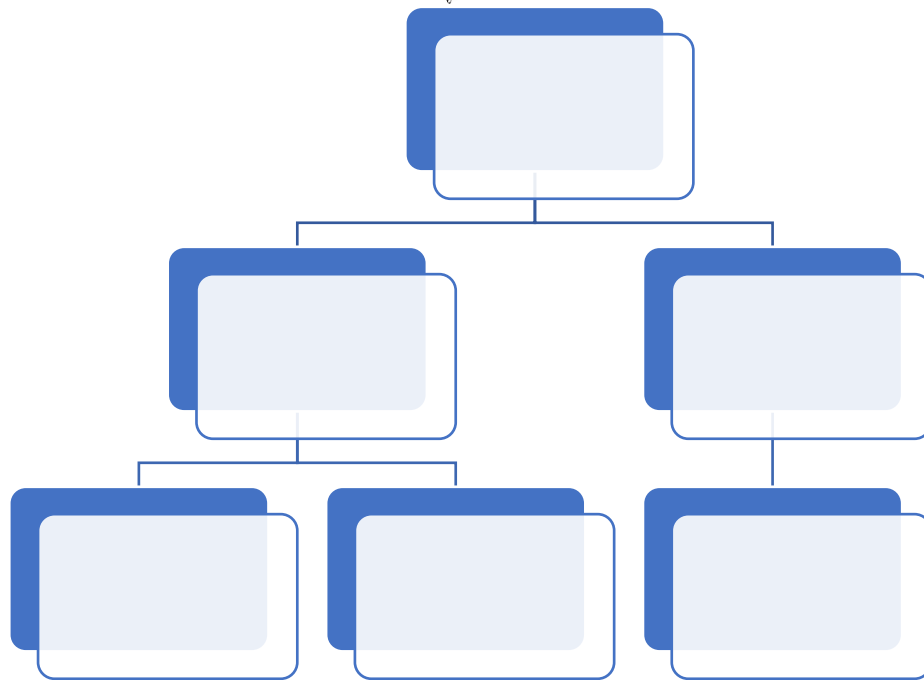


Now, design your own **graphic organizer** where you state your **topic sentence** and **supporting ideas** about any last reading text that you did. Each supporting idea may include a detail(s), a citation(s), and or an example(s). An example of graphic organizer has been done for you as shown below.



**Source:** the researchers

Your own design must be worked on here 



If you are out of ideas, analyse the topic sentences below and think of their possible supporting ideas. (Think of the *whys*, the *hows*).

1. Business needs some favourable strategies to attract customers.
  - 1.1 Strategy details...or examples....
  - 1.2 Strategy details...or examples....
  - 1.3 Strategy details...or examples....
2. Customer service offers many ways to be proactive.
  - 2.1 Do not be a procrastinator= (supporting idea), details...or examples....
  - 2.2 Always try to be helpful = (supporting idea) details...or examples....
  - 2.3 Be reliable = (supporting idea) details...or examples....
3. Offering exceptional service ensures your customers always come back.
4. Favourable strategies to attract customers in business.
5. Customers return to buy for many reasons.
6. The excellence of a company depends on good customer service.
7. Good treatment and efficient techniques ensure customers to return to a restaurant.
8. The best ways to serve customers will keep them coming back.
9. Customer service must consider product prices.