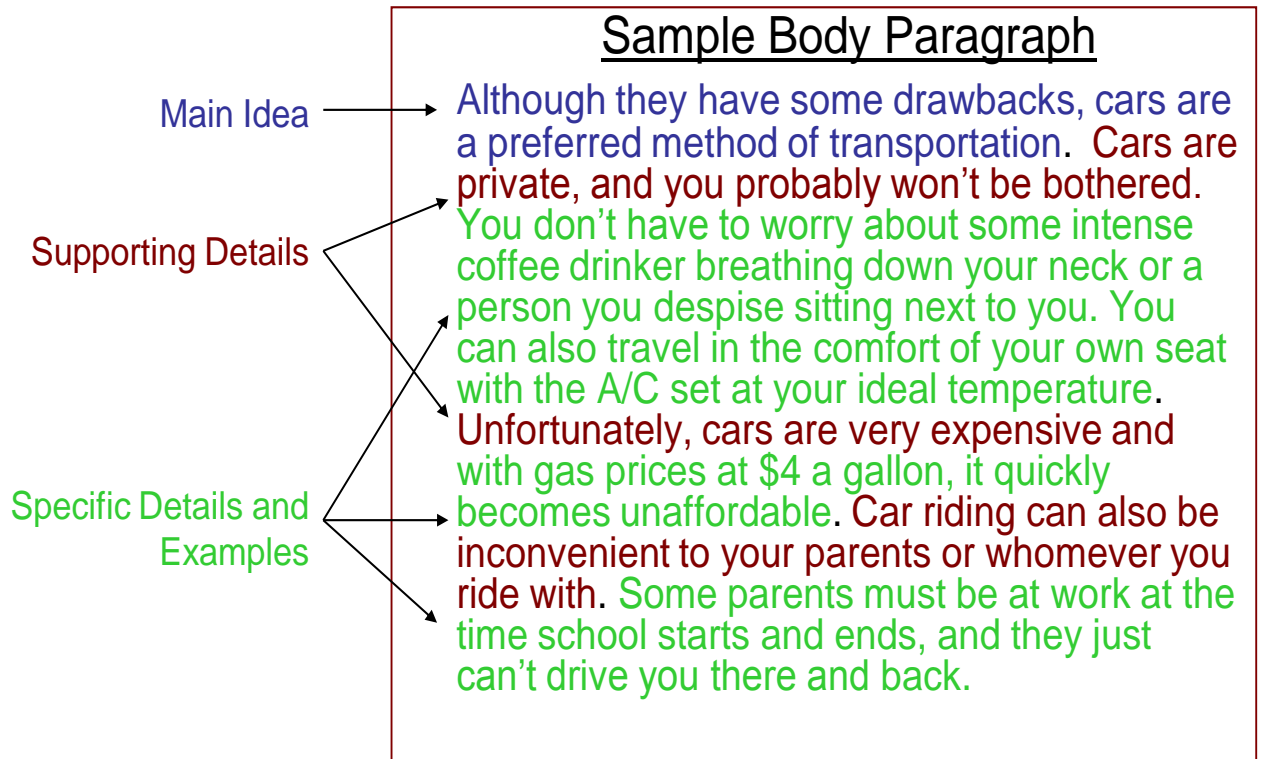


Example of Depth of Development in a Paragraph

Controlling Idea:

There are many great options for getting to school, but all have their downsides.



Main Idea- highlight with blue

Supporting Details- highlight with pink

Specific Details & Examples- highlight with green

Writing Websites

Website

Colorado State Universities Online Writing Lab

Exemplars: Developing Writers

Learning-Focused Writing Assignments K-12

Purdue University's Online Writing Lab

Read-Write-Think

Write Source

The Writing Site

URL

www.writing.colostate.edu

www.exemplars.com/materials/rwr/index.html

www.learningfocused.com

www.owl.english.purdue.edu

www.readwritethink.org

www.thewritesource.com

www.thewritingsite.org

Writing Instruction Resources:

The following resources were recommended by Georgia educators

Author	Title
Janet Allen	<i>Tools for Teaching Content Literacy</i>
Nancie Atwell	<i>Lessons that Change Writers</i>
Atwell, Nancie	<i>In the Middle: New Understandings about Writing, Reading, and Learning</i>
David Booth	<i>Reading & Writing in the Middle Years</i>
Jim Burke	<i>Writing Reminders</i>
Ross Burkhardt	<i>Writing for Real: Strategies for Engaging Adolescent Writers</i>
Ruth Culham	<i>6+1 Traits of Writing The Complete Guide Grades 3 and Up</i>
Sharon Hamilton	<i>Solving Common Writing Problems</i>
Ralph Fletcher	<i>A Writer's Notebook: Unlocking the Writer Within You</i>
Ralph Fletcher	<i>How Writer's Work: Finding a Process that Works for You</i>
Ralph Fletcher	<i>Live Writing: Breathing Life into Your Words</i>
Ralph Fletcher	<i>Poetry Matters: Writing a Poem from the Inside Out</i>
R. Fletcher & J. Portalupi	<i>Craft Lessons: Teaching Writing K-8</i>
R. Fletcher & J. Portalupi	<i>Nonfiction Craft Lessons: Teaching Informational Writing K-8</i>
R. Fletcher & J. Portalupi	<i>Writing Workshop - The Essential Guide</i>

PREPARATION AT HOME: There are a few things that parents and students can do now to get a head start on the writing program. **First**, buy the **blue**, **pink**, and **green** highlighters, and make sure there is a set at home, and at school. **Second**, use your child's scored writing sample as a starting point and work with it. **Third**, visit the state's website and take advantage of the resources they offer. Here are a few ideas to get you started.

- Discuss your child's scored sample paper. Review the domain characteristics.
- Have your child show you where they could have added a specific detail. For example: Instead of only writing, "The bus was crowded", I should have added that "three students have to sit in every seat."
- Use the highlighters according to McConnell's system, and help your child highlight their own test paper.
- Go to the state website. Print a sample writing test, and go through the paragraphs together, highlighting according to the writing plan.
- Read about the scoring- from a level 1 to a level 5.
- Discuss what makes a paper score a 2 versus a 4. Do you see the differences?
- Can you and your child discover why a paper scored a 5, the highest score of all?
- Print off a level 2 paper (1-2 are not passing scores), and have your child add to it. **GO FOR GREEN**, to raise it up to a level 3.
- Take a level 4 paper, and raise it to a level 5- exceeding the mark!

The GaDOE Website: www.doe.k12.ga.us

- To access Grade 8 Writing resources on the GaDOE website, go to www.doe.k12.ga.us
- At the top of the homepage, hover over the CURRICULUM tab, and select TESTING.
- Then, scroll down to the middle of the page and click on the WRITING ASSESSMENTS icon.
- Then, scroll down to the bottom of the page and select the appropriate grade level (Grade 3, 5, 8, or 11).
- Then, look on the right side of the page for the box called RESOURCES. Here, you will find valuable information.
- You can also click on MORE, under the RESOURCE box, to explore additional resources.