

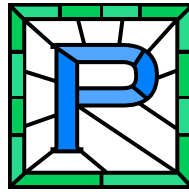
Paragraph Development: **Assertion, Proof, and Explanation**



An **Assertion** is a topic sentence that states the main idea of a paragraph.

Imagine you were asked to write a paragraph on *Lord of the Flies*. Your topic sentence might read something like this:

Assertion: Using beast symbolism, Golding exhibits man's inability to conquer the evil within.



Every paragraph needs to have **Proof (Examples)**, also known as *supporting sentences*, that strongly support the topic sentence. Whenever possible, directly cite a published source to provide the necessary examples to support your paragraph's topic sentence or statement.

Example: Golding states, "There isn't anyone to help you. Only me. And I'm the Beast. . . . Fancy thinking the Beast was something you could hunt and kill! . . . You knew, didn't you? I'm part of you? Close, close, close! I'm the reason why it's no go? Why things are the way they are?" (179).



Explanation - sentences or closing sentences bring your paragraph to a logical conclusion by clearly explaining how the cited examples strongly support the topic sentence.

Analysis/Explanation: Through Simon's encounter with the Lord of the Flies, the pig's head figuratively represents the downfall of humanity as the boys sink deeper in to their savage instincts. As Simon fights this hallucination, it represents man's struggle to overcome his inner evil. With Simon's subsequent death, Golding solidifies that man is a slave to his impulses and savage instincts.

Note: Writers can use **Assertion, Proof, and Explanation** in any order. In an essay, always vary the sentence structure.