Basic English Writing

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Process of writing

The first stage: prewriting

Read articles → Reflect → Discuss with peers → Make Summary& critiques

Collect any data related to your topic

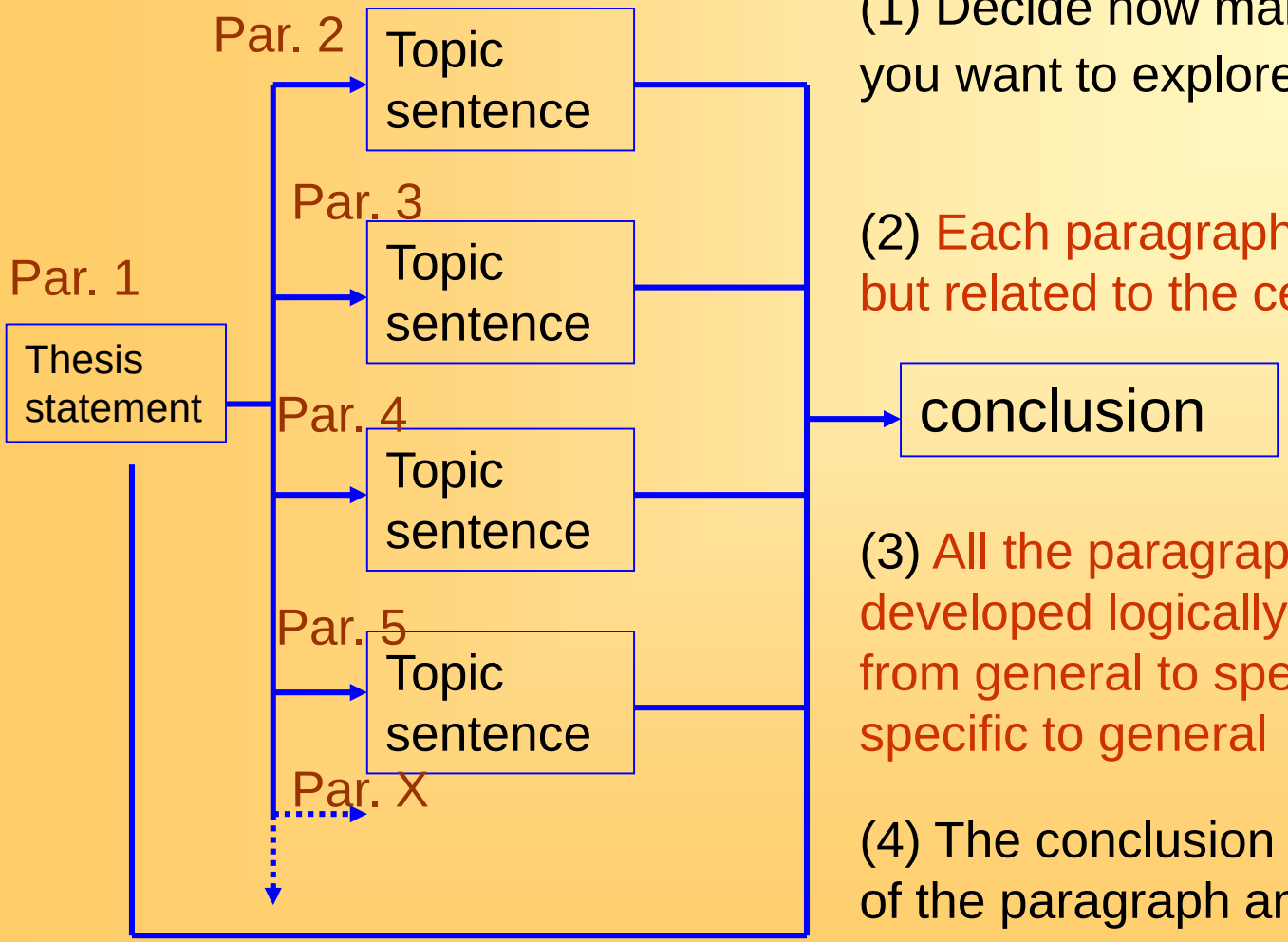
The second stage: writing

first draft → Read yourself → second draft… ⋯→

The third stage: rewriting

Instructor's & peer's feedback → rewrite → Read yourself → Rewrite ⋯→

Construct An Outline



(1) Decide how many paragraphs you want to explore the central ideas

(2) Each paragraph has its own topic but related to the central ideas

(3) All the paragraphs must be developed logically and coherently from general to specific or from specific to general

(4) The conclusion must cover each of the paragraph and echo the central ideas

Source: Craig Wright

There are three reasons why I want to learn English. One reason is that English has become an international language. It is now used by most international companies, including high-tech computer companies, for business communication. Another reason why I want to learn English is so that I can travel to English-speaking countries. The United States, England, Australia and many other countries all use English as their primary language. Finally, I want to learn English because I plan to study in the U.S. in the future. I will study computer systems design. For all these reasons, I am very excited about learning English

The topic sentence / thesis statement

1. Have an opportunity to explore
2. Limit it and make it concrete

Example

Examples:

- Two weeks ago, the Beach Boys gave a concert at the stadium.

Not effective (X)→ it is a fact

- Current movies are very enjoyable to watch.

Not effective (X)→ too broad (what movies)

- Attending Marine Corps boot camp was the most challenging experience of my life.

Effective→ explain "how challenging"

Supporting ideas

(1) Purpose:

--to support the central idea

--to explain, to elaborate specifically

--to convince readers

(2) Common types of supporting ideas:

brief example, extended examples, statistics, expert opinion or testimony

(1) Brief examples

a. personal experiences, observations, other sources like books, magazines, television, films, or lectures, which keep your writing interesting, convincing, and informative
b. It is always moving form the general to the specific

(2) Extended examples

Like brief examples, extended examples are also drawn from personal experiences, observations or other sources like books, magazines, television, films, and lectures, etc., but they are longer and more detailed narratives of events

(3) Statistics

Statistics, drawn from reliable sources, are objective, credible, and measurable than brief or extended examples. It covers more situations than one or even several examples

(4) Expert opinion or testimony

Authorities on the subject
(e.g. articles or books)

e.g. vaccination → against the measles

Who is the expert?

parents ***X*** ***doctor*** ***O***

Conclusion

- A restatement of the main point
- A restatement of the supporting points
- Predictions or recommendations
- Solutions to the problem
- A quotation or quotations
- A reference

