

Earth's Human Geography

Writing Skills

Creating Paragraph Outlines

An outline is a good way to organize information. Organizing information before you write makes the writing process easier. It will also help you determine if the information you selected supports your topic sentence. A paragraph outline is very simple. Look at the following example.

- I. Topic sentence
 - A. Supporting detail
 - B. Supporting detail
 - C. Supporting detail
- II. Concluding sentence

Suppose that you want to write a paragraph about the harsh environments in which some people live. You will need a topic sentence, some examples of people who live in harsh environments, and finally a concluding sentence. Perhaps your outline would look like the example below.

- I. Some people live in harsh places.
 - A. Inuit
 - B. Sami
 - C. Desert herders
- II. People adapt.

A paragraph based on this example might turn out like this one:

Some people live in areas most of us would find uncomfortable. The Inuit and Sami people live in frozen Arctic regions. Herders in desert regions of Africa and Asia survive in places that would challenge most people. Over many generations, these people have developed ways of life suited to their environments.

Directions: *Select one section of your textbook and write a paragraph summarizing the information. Read the section you selected carefully, then determine what you will cover in your paragraph. On a separate sheet of paper develop your paragraph outline and then write the paragraph.*