

Choose the best among the several [topic sentences](#) for each [paragraph](#) below.

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1. I saw around Velva a release from what was like slavery to the tyrannical soil, release from the ignorance that darkens the soul and from the loneliness that corrodes it. In this generation my Velva friends have rejoined the general American society that their pioneering fathers left behind when they first made the barren trek in the days of the wheat rush. As I sit here in Washington writing this, I can feel their nearness. (from Eric Sevareid, "Velva, North Dakota")

1. [Family-sized farms are not productive.](#)
  2. [I grew up on a family-sized farm, near a town called Velva.](#)
  3. [Many politicians deplore the passing of the old family-sized farm, but I'm not so sure.](#)
  4. [People moved away from the cities in the late nineteenth century, in search of fertile land for farming.](#)
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2. The first is the wear-and-tear hypothesis that suggests the body eventually succumbs to the environmental insults of life. The second is the notion that we have an internal clock which is genetically programmed to run down. Supporters of the wear-and-tear theory maintain that the very practice of breathing causes us to age because inhaled oxygen produces toxic by-products. Advocates of the internal clock theory believe that individual cells are told to stop dividing and thus eventually to die by, for example, hormones produced by the brain or by their own genes. (from Debra Blank, "The Eternal Quest" [edited]).

1. [There are two broad theories concerning what triggers a human's inevitable decline to death.](#)
  2. [Some scientists believe that humans contain an "internal time clock" which forces them eventually to die.](#)
  3. [We all must die some day.](#)
  4. [My biology professor gave an interesting lecture Thursday.](#)
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3. The strictest military discipline imaginable is still looser than that prevailing in the average assembly-line. The soldier, at worst, is still able to exercise the highest conceivable functions of freedom -- that is, he or she is permitted to steal and to kill. No discipline prevailing in peace gives him or her anything remotely resembling this. The soldier is, in war, in the position of a free adult; in peace he or she is almost always in the position of a child. In war all things are excused by success, even violations of discipline. In peace, speaking generally, success is inconceivable except as a function of discipline. (from H.L. Mencken, "Reflections on War" [edited]).

1. [Soldiers need discipline.](#)
  2. [We commonly look on the discipline of war as vastly more rigid than any discipline necessary in time of peace, but this is an error.](#)
  3. [Although soldiers are not always disciplined, they serve an important social function in wartime.](#)
  4. [In times of peace, soldiers often convert easily from wartime pursuits to the discipline necessary successfully to compete in even the most competitive marketplace.](#)
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4. In Montreal, a flashing red traffic light instructs drivers to careen even more wildly through intersections heavily populated with pedestrians and oncoming vehicles. In startling contrast, an amber light in Calgary warns drivers to scream to a halt on the off chance that there might be a pedestrian within 500 meters who might consider crossing at some unspecified time within the current day. In my home town in New Brunswick, finally, traffic lights (along with painted lines and posted speed limits) do not apply to tractors, all terrain vehicles, or pickup trucks, which together account for most vehicles on the road. In fact, were any observant Canadian dropped from an alien space vessel at an unspecified intersection anywhere in this vast land, he or she could almost certainly orient him-or-herself according to the surrounding traffic patterns.
  1. [People in Calgary are careful of pedestrians.](#)
  2. [Although the interpretation of traffic signals may seem highly standardized, close observation reveals regional variations across this country, distinguishing the East Coast from Central Canada and the West as surely as dominant dialects or political inclinations.](#)
  3. [People in Montreal drive faster than people in Alberta, and Maritimers generally don't pay any attention to traffic signals at all.](#)
  4. [Canadians do not follow traffic signals properly.](#)

Although most [paragraphs](#) contain a combination of development techniques, which type of development best describes the following paragraphs: [detail](#); [comparison and contrast](#); [process](#); or [combination](#)?

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1. My secretary, incorrigibly English, says a true gentleman "knows instinctively when I prefer to light my own cigarette, never serves aces at me on the tennis court, and always removes his wristwatch." Among the few true gentlemen extant, she says, "Captain Horatio Hornblower, Bob Dylan and Pierre Elliott Trudeau come to mind. Richard Burton, Joe Namath and Front Page Tom don't." (from Allan Fotheringham, "What is a Gentleman")
  1. [Development by Detail](#)
  2. [Development by Comparison and Contrast](#)
  3. [Development by Process](#)
  4. [Combination of Development Methods](#)
  
2. When I tell young softball players I played the game bare-handed, they regard me warily. Am I one of those geezers who's forever jawing about the fact that, in his day, you had to walk through six miles of snowdrifts just to get to school? Will I tediously lament the passing of the standing broad jump, and the glorious old days when the only football in the Maritimes was English rugger, when hockey was an outdoor art rather than indoor mayhem and at decent yacht clubs, men were gentlemen and women were persona non grata? No, but I will tell today's softball players that -- with their fancy uniforms, batters' helmets, dugouts, manicured diamonds, guys to announce who's at bat over public address systems and, above all, gloves for every fielder -- the game they play is more tartered-up and sissy than the one I knew. (from Harry Bruce, "The Softball was Always Hard")
  1. [Development by Detail](#)
  2. [Development by Comparison and Contrast](#)
  3. [Development by Process](#)
  4. [Combination of Development Methods](#)

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3. To identify the species the wasp apparently must explore the spider with her antennae. The tarantula shows an amazing tolerance to this exploration. The wasp crawls under it and walks over it without evoking any hostile response. The molestation is so great and so persistent that the tarantula often rises on all eight legs, as if it were on stilts. It may stand this way for several minutes. (from Alexander Petrunkevitch, "The Wasp and the Spider")

1. [Development by Detail](#)
  2. [Development by Comparison and Contrast](#)
  3. [Development by Process](#)
  4. [Combination of Development Methods](#)
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4. When I was young I often heard people say, "Canada is the Scotland of North America." Only recently did it occur to me that it might be worthwhile considering the extent to which this is true. As Scotland is the hard northern cap to the British island, with the rich farmlands and cities of England just below her, so is Canada to the United States. Both countries were gouged by the retreating glaciers, which left them on the subsistence level as far as good farmland was considered. It also gave them both a heritage of spectacular beauty uncrowded by cities and towns, and of this they were both inclined to boast. (from Hugh MacLennan, "Scotland's Fate, Canada's Lesson" [edited])

1. [Development by Detail](#)
2. [Development by Comparison and Contrast](#)
3. [Development by Process](#)
4. [Combination of Development Methods](#)

Fill in the Blank.

1. What is a [paragraph](#)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What are three methods of achieving [COHERENCE](#) in a paragraph?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What is the purpose of the [conclusion](#)?