

Zigzag & And
Paragraph Building — Guided Practice
Down the Rabbit-Hole

Lewis Carroll, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

3.1 Open with a clear idea

Directions: An opening sentence tells the reader the paragraph's main idea. It should be broad enough for the evidence but focused enough to guide the paragraph.

Worked example: Evidence: *cupboards; book-shelves; maps; empty jar*. Opening idea: *Alice notices many unusual objects during her fall*.

1. Mark each sentence **O** for a useful opening idea or **D** for a supporting detail.
 - (a) *Alice notices many unusual objects during her fall.* **O**
 - (b) *The sides of the well held cupboards.* **D**
 - (c) *Maps and pictures hung upon pegs.* **D**
 - (d) *Alice's slow descent becomes a chance to observe.* **O**
2. Turn the notes into an opening sentence: *Rabbit watch; Alice curious; follows*.

Solution: The Rabbit's unusual behaviour makes Alice curious enough to follow it.

3. Write an opening sentence for a paragraph about Alice's thoughts near the end of the fall.

Solution: As the fall continues, Alice turns her uncertainty into imaginative questions.

3.2 Choose supporting evidence

Directions: Strong evidence directly supports the opening idea. Mark each detail **R** if it is relevant or **I** if it does not belong. Then collect the relevant notes.

Worked example: Opening idea: *The Rabbit changes Alice's quiet afternoon. The Rabbit takes out a watch* is **R**; *Alice lands on dry leaves* is **I** for this paragraph.

4. Mark each detail R or I for the opening idea *Alice follows because the Rabbit is unusual*.
- (a) *The Rabbit has a waistcoat-pocket.* **R**
 - (b) *The Rabbit takes out a watch.* **R**
 - (c) *Alice wonders about cats and bats.* **I**
 - (d) *Alice is burning with curiosity.* **R**
 - (e) *Alice lands on sticks and dry leaves.* **I**

5. Write two relevant notes for the same opening idea.

Evidence:

Solution: takes out a watch; has a waistcoat-pocket

What it shows:

Solution: Rabbit acts unlike ordinary animal; explains curiosity

6. Explain in one sentence why *Alice wondered about cats and bats* does not belong in this paragraph.

Solution: The cats-and-bats thought occurs later during the fall, so it does not support the Rabbit's first unusual actions.

3.3 Close the paragraph

Directions: A closing sentence leaves the reader with the paragraph's main idea. Echo the idea in fresh words and do not introduce a new event.

Worked example: Opening idea: *Alice has time to observe the well*. Closing thought: *The slow descent turns a frightening moment into a period of looking around*.

7. Write a closing sentence for *The Rabbit draws Alice away from the bank*.

Solution: Because of the Rabbit, Alice's quiet afternoon becomes an unexpected chase.

8. Write a closing sentence for *Alice notices objects along the sides of the well*.

Solution: The strange sides give Alice something to study while she falls.

9. Write a closing sentence for *Alice's thoughts become playful during the fall*.

Solution: By the end, her unanswered questions have become a dreamy game with words.

3.4 Plan one paragraph

Directions: Use plain planning labels. Write the opening idea and closing thought as complete sentences. Keep evidence and what it shows in short notes.

Worked example:

Opening idea: *Alice's fall gives her time to notice the well.*

Evidence 1: *slow fall; plenty of time*

What it shows: *long descent permits observation*

Evidence 2: *cupboards; shelves; maps; pictures*

What it shows: *well is unexpectedly furnished*

Closing thought: *Alice turns an alarming fall into careful looking.*

10. Plan a paragraph explaining why Alice follows the Rabbit.

Opening idea:

Solution: Alice follows the Rabbit because its behaviour is extraordinary.

Evidence 1:

Solution: Rabbit takes out a watch

What it shows:

Solution: Rabbit uses an object normally carried by people

Evidence 2:

Solution: watch comes from a waistcoat-pocket

What it shows:

Solution: Rabbit has clothing Alice has never seen on a rabbit before

Closing thought:

Solution: The Rabbit's unusual signs pull Alice out of her ordinary afternoon.

3.5 Grow a paragraph from notes

Directions: Turn a plan into a paragraph. Begin with the opening idea, explain each piece of evidence, and end with the closing thought. Use complete sentences and connecting words.

Worked example plan: *Opening: Alice sees a changing world. Evidence: dark below; shelves and maps; empty jar. Closing: the fall becomes observation.*

Worked paragraph: *Alice sees a changing world during her fall. It is too dark to see below, but the sides of the well contain shelves, maps, and pictures. She also finds an empty jar and puts it safely away. The fall becomes a strange opportunity for observation.*

11. Write a paragraph from this plan.

Opening idea: *Alice's curiosity changes a quiet afternoon into a chase.*

Evidence: *tired beside sister; book has no pictures; Rabbit says late; watch; Alice runs beneath hedge*

Closing thought: *An unusual detail gives Alice a new direction.*

Solution: Alice's curiosity changes a quiet afternoon into a chase. She is tired beside her sister, and the book has no pictures or conversations. Then the White Rabbit says it will be late and takes a watch from its waistcoat-pocket. Alice runs across the field and follows it beneath the hedge. An unusual detail gives Alice a new direction.

3.6 Summarise the passage

Directions: A summary keeps the main movement and leaves out repeated questions and small images. Plan with notes first, then write a short paragraph in your own words.

Worked example: Notes: *Rabbit appears; Alice follows; tunnel dips; long fall; observes well; lands.* Summary: *A strange Rabbit draws Alice into a tunnel, where a sudden dip sends her into a long fall. She observes the well as she descends and finally lands on sticks and leaves.*

12. Plan a summary of Alice's change from boredom to adventure.

Opening idea:

Solution: A strange Rabbit changes Alice's boring afternoon into an adventure.

Key event 1:

Solution: tired by sister; book no pictures; nothing to do

Key event 2:

Solution: Rabbit says late; watch; Alice follows under hedge

Key event 3:

Solution: tunnel dips; deep well; long fall; comes down on heap of sticks and dry leaves

Closing thought:

Solution: The unexpected chase leads Alice into a world of unfamiliar sights.

13. Write the summary from your plan.

Solution: A strange Rabbit changes Alice's boring afternoon into an adventure. Alice is tired beside her sister, whose book has no pictures or conversations. When the Rabbit takes a watch from its waistcoat-pocket, Alice follows it down a rabbit-hole. The tunnel dips into a deep well, and she falls for a long time before landing on sticks and dry leaves. The unexpected chase leads Alice into a world of unfamiliar sights.

3.7 Plan a short response

Directions: Plan three short paragraphs about one focused question. Write the overall opening idea and closing thought as sentences. Use notes for each paragraph's focus and evidence.

Worked example question: *How does Alice stay mentally active while falling?*

Opening idea: *Alice stays mentally active by observing her surroundings and imagining possibilities.*

Paragraph 1 focus: *observes the well*

Evidence: *cupboards; book-shelves; maps; pictures; jar*

Paragraph 2 focus: *imagines geography*

Evidence: *centre earth; Latitude/Longitude; New Zealand/Australia*

Paragraph 3 focus: *thinks about Dinah*

Evidence: *milk saucer; cats and bats; repeated questions*

Closing thought: *Observation and imagination fill the long descent.*

14. Plan a short response explaining how the Rabbit changes the scene.

Opening idea:

Solution: The Rabbit changes the scene from a bored afternoon into a strange adventure.

Paragraph 1 focus:

Solution: quiet bank; Alice tired; book no pictures

Paragraph 1 evidence:

Solution: sitting by sister; hot day; nothing to do

Paragraph 2 focus:

Solution: Rabbit's unusual arrival

Paragraph 2 evidence:

Solution: takes watch from waistcoat-pocket; hurries on; rabbit-hole beneath hedge

Paragraph 3 focus:

Solution: Alice follows and begins falling

Paragraph 3 evidence:

Solution: runs across field; rabbit-hole; deep well

Closing thought:

Solution: The Rabbit's brief appearance redirects every part of Alice's afternoon.

3.8 Build with complete topic sentences

Directions: A multi-paragraph response needs a complete topic sentence for each paragraph. Turn each note group into a sentence that relates to the overall opening idea. Keep details as notes.

Worked example: Overall idea: *Alice responds actively to the strange fall.* Notes: *well objects.* Topic sentence: *Alice first responds by observing the objects around her.*

15. Turn each note group into a complete topic sentence for the response *Alice moves from boredom to curiosity and then to imagination.* **Paragraph 1 notes:** *tired; sister; book no pictures; nothing to do*

Solution: Alice begins in a bored and sleepy mood beside her sister.

Paragraph 2 notes: *Rabbit says late; watch; burning curiosity; follows*

Solution: The Rabbit's strange behaviour awakens Alice's curiosity and sends her after it.

Paragraph 3 notes: *centre earth; countries; Dinah; cats and bats*

Solution: During the fall, Alice keeps her mind active through imaginative questions.

16. Add one concrete detail under each topic sentence.

Paragraph 1 detail:

Solution: book without pictures or conversations

Paragraph 2 detail:

Solution: Rabbit takes watch from waistcoat-pocket

Paragraph 3 detail:

Solution: asks whether cats eat bats; repeats question