

## Lesson Plan

### Building a Paragraph

**Book:** *Building a House*

**Series:** How It's Done

**Level:** Beacon

### Objective

To help students practice writing clear persuasive paragraphs.

### Supplies

- *Building a House* book
- Whiteboard
- Pencils and paper

### Before the Activity

Read *Building a House* out loud, or assign it to students to read on their own.

### Activity

Builders follow a set process when building a house. First, they build a foundation to give the house a stable base. Then they add walls to give the house a frame. Lastly, they place a roof on top. It wouldn't work for builders to try building in a different order. They need the foundation in place to secure the walls. And they need the walls in place to hold up the roof.

In a persuasive paragraph, the author has a clear opinion about a certain topic. The author wants to convince readers to have that same opinion. Write the following outline on the whiteboard. Explain that students can “build” a clear persuasive paragraph by using the following outline:

- Topic sentence
- Supporting sentences
- Concluding sentence

The topic sentence of the paragraph is like the foundation for a house. It provides a base for the rest of the paragraph to stand on. The topic sentence introduces the topic of the paragraph and clearly states the writer's argument. The supporting sentences are like the walls of a house. They build on the topic sentence. Each supporting sentence gives a different reason for the writer's argument. A writer should include at least three supporting sentences. The concluding sentence is like the roof of a house. It tops off the rest of the paragraph, clearly restating the author's argument in an original way.

Have each student write a persuasive paragraph addressing the following prompt:

- The school principal wants to add a new class to the curriculum that all students will have to take. The principal has asked for your help. What new class should be offered, and why?

Give students the rest of the class period to write their paragraphs. Collect the paragraphs at the end of class.

### **Evaluation**

Give students up to 6 points for their paragraphs:

- 1 point for a clear topic sentence that summarizes the student's argument
- 1 point for each of the supporting sentences that strengthens the student's argument
- 1 point for a clear concluding sentence that restates the student's argument
- 1 point for writing without grammatical or spelling errors

### **Standards**

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' writing standards, grade 3 (W 3.1).