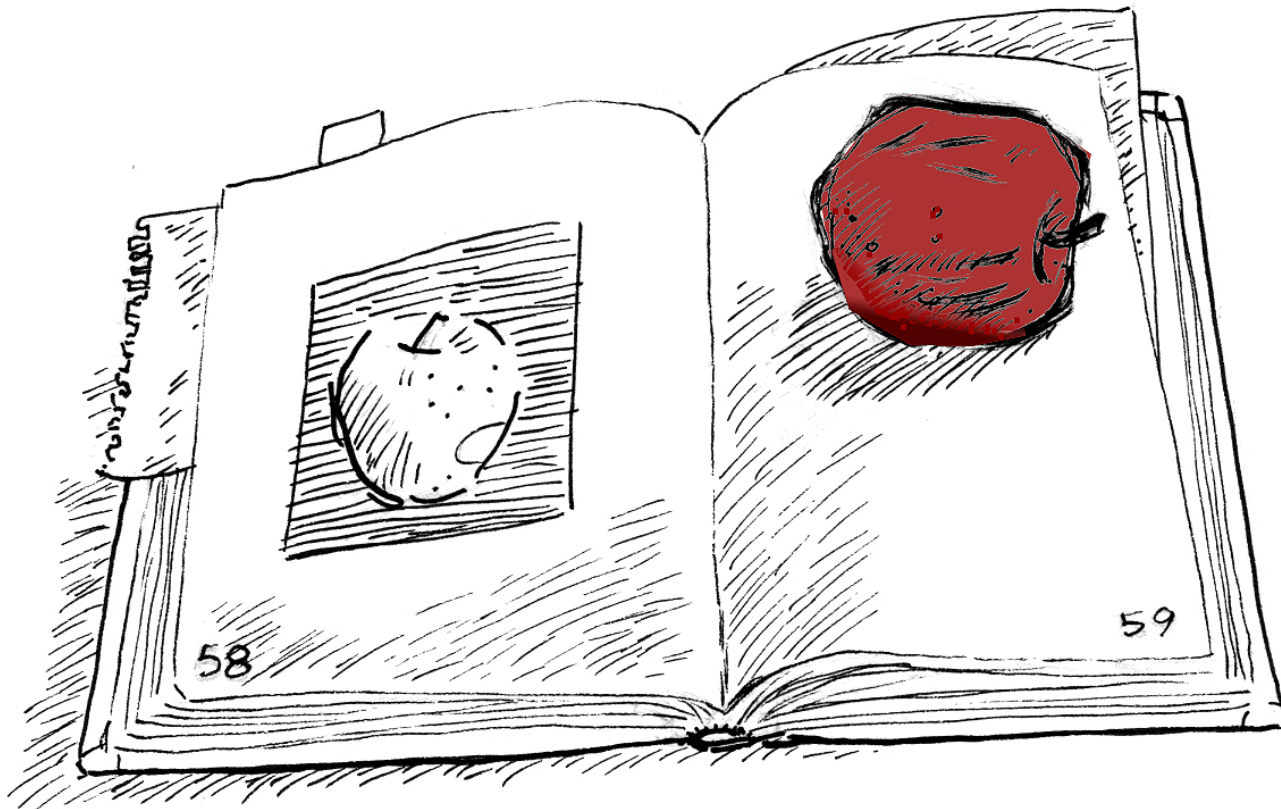


Crafting the Perfect Paragraph



The “Perfect” Paragraph

*No matter who the selected **audience** is, strong writing requires adequate defense of a selected topic.*

In an academic, research setting *at least* five sentences are needed to defend your chosen subject.

1. Topic sentence introduces the subject
2. Secondary evidence sentence (SES)
3. SES (citing an authority on the subject)
4. SES (review or analysis of the supplied evidence)
5. Conclusion (deductive resolution regarding evidence)

For a personal, informal setting only three sentences are needed as defense:

1. Topic sentence introduces the subject
2. Secondary evidence or observation sentence
3. Conclusion (deductive resolution; confirms topic’s direction within paper)

John Updike || Beer Can

This seems to be an era of gratuitous inventions and negative improvements. Consider the beer can. It was beautiful – as beautiful as the clothespin, as inevitable as the wine bottle, as dignified and reassuring as the fire hydrant. A tranquil cylinder of delightfully resonant metal, it could be opened in an instant, requiring only the application of a handy gadget freely dispensed by every grocer. Who can forget the small, symmetrical thrill of those two triangular punctures, the dainty *pfff*, the little crest of suds that foamed eagerly in the exultation of release? Now we are given, instead, a top beetling with an ugly, shmoo-shaped tab, which, after fiercely resisting the tugging, bleeding fingers of the thirsty man, threatens his lips with a dangerous and hideous hole. However, we have discovered a way to thwart Progress, usually so unthwartable. *Turn the beer can upside down and open the bottom.* The bottom is still the way the top used to be. True, this operation gives the beer an unsettling jolt, and the sight of a consistently inverted beer can might make people edgy, not to say queasy. But the latter difficulty could be eliminated if manufacturers would design cans that looked the same whichever end was up, like playing cards. What we need is Progress with an escape hatch.

Tones of Voice / Audience / Formality

There are three forms of general communication styles utilized by the public:

- colloquial (extremely casual)
- informal (personal, casual)
- formal (academic)

These range in complexity and usage.

As you already know, different circumstances require different tones.

Tones of Voice / Audience / Formality

Colloquial

Informal

Formal

∴ characteristic of
or appropriate to
ordinary or familiar
conversation rather
than formal speech
or writing

—more like slang
and coded
clique language

Tones of Voice / Audience / Formality

Colloquial

∴ characteristic of
or appropriate to
ordinary or familiar
conversation rather
than formal speech
or writing

—more like slang
and coded
clique language

Informal

without sense of
formality or
ceremony;
casual

Formal

Tones of Voice / Audience / Formality

Colloquial

∴ characteristic of
or appropriate to
ordinary or familiar
conversation rather
than formal speech
or writing

—more like slang
and coded
clique language

Informal

without sense of
formality or
ceremony;
casual

Formal

observant of
specific and *strict*
requirements
of behavior,
procedure;
ceremonious

Tones of Voice / Audience / Formality

Colloquial

Informal

Formal

- Bar
- Sports Event

Tones of Voice / Audience / Formality

Colloquial

- Bar
- Sports Event

Informal

- Casual Speech (TV)
- Relatives / Friends

Formal

Tones of Voice / Audience / Formality

Colloquial

- Bar
- Sports Event

Informal

- Casual Speech (TV)
- Relatives / Friends

Formal

- Political Speech
- Sermon
- Job Interview

Tones of Voice / Audience / Formality

Colloquial

- Bar
- Sports Event

- Family Blog

Informal

- Casual Speech (TV)
- Relatives / Friends

- Personal Essay

Formal

- Political Speech
- Sermon
- Job Interview

- Hard News Article

Tones of Voice / Audience / Formality

Colloquial

- Bar
- Sports Event

- Family Blog
- Web Site Commentary

Informal

- Casual Speech (TV)
- Relatives / Friends

- Personal Essay
- Professional Blog

Formal

- Political Speech
- Sermon
- Job Interview
- Hard News Article
- Academic Research Paper

Tones of Voice / Audience / Formality

Colloquial

Informal

Formal

yakking

Tones of Voice / Audience / Formality

Colloquial

yakking

Informal

talking

Formal

Tones of Voice / Audience / Formality

Colloquial

yakking

Informal

talking

Formal

discussing

Tones of Voice / Audience / Formality

Colloquial

yakking

kids

Informal

talking

Formal

discussing

Tones of Voice / Audience / Formality

Colloquial

yakking

kids

Informal

talking

children

Formal

discussing

Tones of Voice / Audience / Formality

Colloquial

yakking

kids

Informal

talking

children

Formal

discussing

youth

Tones of Voice / Audience / Formality

Colloquial

yakking

kids

My guess is

Informal

talking

children

Formal

discussing

youth

Tones of Voice / Audience / Formality

Colloquial

yakking

kids

My guess is

Informal

talking

children

I would guess

Formal

discussing

youth

Tones of Voice / Audience / Formality

Colloquial

yakking

kids

My guess is

Informal

talking

children

I would guess

Formal

discussing

youth

I estimate

Wikipedia.org

Smoking bans are public policies, including criminal laws and occupational safety and health regulations, which prohibit tobacco smoking in workplaces and/or other public spaces. Legislation may also define smoking as more generally being the carrying or possessing of any lit tobacco product.

The rationale for smoke-free laws is to protect people from the effects of second-hand smoke, which include an increased risk of heart disease, cancer, emphysema, and other diseases. Laws implementing bans on indoor smoking have been introduced by many countries in various forms over the years, with some legislators citing scientific evidence that shows tobacco smoking is harmful to the smokers themselves and to those inhaling second-hand smoke.

“smoking ban.” *Wikipedia*. 06.2010. Web. 06.02.10.

Kinky Friedman

Smoke Gets in Your Eyes:

Sometimes a cigar is just a cigar. More often—especially today—it’s a political statement.

When I was a child, I spoke as a child and, believe it or not, I smoked as a child. At the tender age of eighteen months, when my mother’s back was turned, a prescient if somewhat perverse uncle surreptitiously substituted a cigar for my pacifier. I don’t know if I should thank Uncle Eli, but 61 and a half years later I’m not only still smoking—I’ve started my own cigar company. I named it Kinky Friedman Cigars, or, as it’s become increasingly known throughout Texas and the world, KFC.

Although smoking in general is currently being attacked from all quarters, I have no qualms about becoming a Jimmy Dean—style pitchman for my product. I strongly believe smoking cigars can yield at least three positive effects: reducing stress, increasing longevity, and irritating Lady Gladys Cumwell. From time to time, of course, as the situation dictates, I still resort to the pacifier. This draws the occasional rude comment, but truthfully, there’s not that much difference between a good cigar and the

Kinky Friedman

time honored pacifier. After a lifetime of smoking I have only one or two taste buds left, but I can assure you, those little buds are having one hell of a party.

Simply to suck on a cigar these days is tantamount to making a political statement. Politicians and bureaucrats at all levels of government have failed so disastrously at resolving the issues that matter to most people—health care, education, immigration, energy, property taxes, the environment—that all they seem to do is tax tobacco and pass ever more stringent smoking regulations. The combined might of our government appears capable only of criminalizing trivia. You’d think George Washington crossed the Delaware expressly to keep Winston Churchill, Mark Twain, and Groucho Marx at least twenty feet away from the entrance to Katz’s Deli.

We’re turning our beautiful country into nothing more than a condo association. Rules, regulations, and political correctness are strangling the best things America has to offer: freedom of speech, freedom of expression, freedom to be who you are. If you own a bar and want to let people smoke, you should be able to put a sign on the door, “Smoking allowed.” If you don’t want smoking, fine. Maybe you have a bar and you don’t want drinking. That’s fine too. If you’re gay, you can go to a gay bar; if you’re straight, you can go to a Jewish singles Purim party. This is the way America should be.

Friedman, Kinky. “Smoke Gets In Your Eyes.” *Texas Monthly*. March. 2008: 240 Print.