

# Create Your Own Paragraph

What's your topic? The proposed street up the middle of Porcupine Park

What's the main idea? (What's the one point you want to make in this paragraph?)

Constructing a city street through Porcupine Park will severely diminish our enjoyment of nature.

List three statements, facts, examples, or ideas that answer "Why?" or "Prove it!"

1. Statement: The addition of traffic noises, the smell of exhaust, and the inevitable litter will pollute the once-peaceful park.

Transition needed? If that weren't troubling enough,

2. Fact: According to the city's Website, [shipleyatyourservice.org](http://shipleyatyourservice.org), the "two-mile trail will be downsized to 1.2 miles" and will lose the stand of irreplaceable old-growth oaks.

Transition needed?

3. Logical statement: A park, by its very definition, is supposed to be a place where people can take advantage of their natural surroundings and enjoy the grass, streams, trees, and other natural beauties unavailable in the city.

Do you need any transitions like *otherwise*, *however*, *in addition*, *furthermore*, *afterward*, *for example*, and *finally*, between your three statements? Write them after "Transition needed?" Do you need a sentence at the end of your paragraph to sum up your point or move readers from this paragraph to the next one? If so, write it here:

This proposed street breaks the original intent of a park's very purpose and takes something of immense value from us.

## **Here is the paragraph all written out:**

*“Constructing a city street through Porcupine Park will severely diminish our few chances to enjoy nature and the rare green spaces in our city. The addition of traffic noises, the smell of exhaust, and the inevitable litter will pollute the once-peaceful park. And if that weren’t troubling enough, the “two-mile trail will be downsized to 1.2 miles,” according to the city’s Website, [shipleyatyourservice.org](http://shipleyatyourservice.org), and we will lose the stand of irreplaceable old-growth oak trees. A park, by its very definition, is supposed to be a place where people can take advantage of their natural surroundings and enjoy the grass, streams, trees, and other natural beauties unavailable in the city. This proposed street breaks the original intent of a park’s very purpose and takes something of immense value from us that can never be restored.”*

- Notice how the main idea, “Constructing a city street through Porcupine Park will severely diminish our enjoyment of nature,” becomes the basis of the topic sentence and is summed up in the last sentence.
- A summation is optional, but this student chose to hit the topic again to emphasize it.
- For the most part, each paragraph in the body of your essay (not the introduction or the conclusion paragraphs) will need a topic sentence. Then, in two or more sentences, you’ll explain or prove your topic sentence. These sentences answer “Why?” or “Prove it!”
- You can use examples, facts, logical statements, true stories, and so on, to support your topic sentence. In the park example, this student uses statements about pollution and the intent of a park, along with one fact taken from the city’s Website.
- If you are writing an essay, you’ll want to fill out one chart for each paragraph in the body of your essay. Most essays have at least three paragraphs in the body.
- After you fill out one chart for each of your paragraphs, move the charts around to see which order you want to put your paragraphs in. When you have decided on the order, write an introduction, then your three paragraphs from your charts, and then a conclusion.