



# Hamburger

## Background and Implementation



# Understanding the Hamburger Strategy

A visual metaphor for structuring a paragraph.

- Top Bun: Main Idea/Topic Sentence
- Fillings: Juicy Supporting Details
- Bottom Bun: Concluding Sentence

**Supports:** Planning and Drafting

**Applies To:** All Genres

**Grade Levels:** Grades 2-6



# Purpose and effectiveness

## What it Helps Students Do:

- Visually map out ideas for a paragraph before writing.
- Analyze content to determine if parts are underdeveloped and need strengthening.
- See the relationship between ideas within a paragraph.

## Why it's Effective:

- Provides an explicit, tactile process using a familiar metaphor to reinforce paragraph structure.
- Breaks down the complex task of writing into manageable, visible parts.
- Supports a student's memory of the parts that should be included in a paragraph.

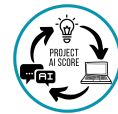


# Step-by-Step



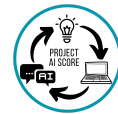
# Step 1: Top Bun (Main Idea)

Step	Action	Guiding Question
1	<b>Think of words, phrases, and ideas to build a topic sentence.</b>	<b>"What is the main idea I want to share?"</b>



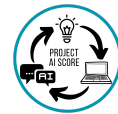
# Step 2: Burger (Juicy Detail 1)

Step	Action	Guiding Question
1	Think of words, phrases, and ideas to build a topic	"What is the main idea I want to share?"
2	<b>Write a few words and short phrases to build a sentence later in your paragraph draft.</b>	<b>"What detail, fact, or example do I want to share that supports my main idea?"</b>



## Step 3: Juicy Detail 2

Step	Action	Guiding Question
1	Think of words, phrases, and ideas to build a topic	"What is the main idea I want to share?"
2	Write a few words and short phrases to build a sentence later in your paragraph draft.	"What detail, fact, or example do I want to share that supports my main idea?"
3	<b>Think and write another supporting detail for your topic sentence.</b>	<b>"What is another detail, fact, or example that I want to share that supports my main idea?"</b>

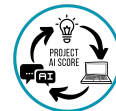


## Step 4: Juicy Detail 3

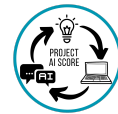
Step	Action	Guiding Question
1	Think of words, phrases, and ideas to build a topic	"What is the main idea I want to share?"
2	Write a few words and short phrases to build a sentence later in your paragraph draft.	"What detail, fact, or example do I want to share that supports my main idea?"
3	Think and write another supporting detail for your topic sentence.	"What is another detail, fact, or example that I want to share that supports my main idea?"
4	<b>Think about more examples and ideas, using transition words as you build your hamburger.</b>	<b>"What is one more detail, fact, or example that I want to share that supports my main idea?"</b>



# Step 5: Bottom Bun (Concluding Sentence)



Step	Action	Guiding Question
1	Think of words, phrases, and ideas to build a topic	"What is the main idea I want to share?"
2	Write a few words and short phrases to build a sentence later in your paragraph draft.	"What detail, fact, or example do I want to share that supports my main idea?"
3	Think and write another supporting detail for your topic sentence.	"What is another detail, fact, or example that I want to share that supports my main idea?"
4	Think about more examples and ideas, using transition words as you build your hamburger.	"What is one more detail, fact, or example that I want to share that supports my main idea?"
5	<b>Write a concluding sentence that holds the paragraph together and makes it complete.</b>	<b>"How can I wrap up the paragraph clearly?"</b>



# Implementation Tips

## Start strong by making the analogy concrete and visually engaging

- Use an actual hamburger image to explain each part of the paragraph.
- Create a shared anchor chart with the hamburger visual for students to refer to.

## Scaffolding for different learners

- Provide sentence starters for each part of the hamburger.
- Use a graphic organizer with the hamburger visual.
- Provide word lists to help students “spice up” their details.

## Ideas for group practice

- Paragraph Assembly Line: Each student in a small group is responsible for one "burger layer".
- Burger Sentence Sorting Game: Students sort mixed sentences into hamburger layers to build coherent paragraphs.
- Whole-Class Interactive Paragraph Build: The class brainstorms and builds a paragraph together on a digital organizer or chart paper.

## Ideas for independent practice

- Use a paper or digital Burger Graphic Organizer for students to practice writing.
- Students use a visual checklist to self-check their work after writing.
- Set up writing stations where students work on a different part of the burger at each station.



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