

The Hamburger Writing Strategy: A One-Page Summary

What is it?

- The Hamburger Writing Strategy is a visual method to help students structure paragraphs. It uses the familiar image of a hamburger to represent the parts of a paragraph:
 - Top bun: Topic sentence
 - Fillings: Supporting details (usually 3)
 - Bottom bun: Concluding sentence

Why use it?

- Provides a concrete, memorable visual for paragraph structure
- Helps students organize their thoughts
- Applicable to various types of writing (persuasive, narrative, informational)
- Suitable for grades 2-6

How to implement:

- Introduce the concept:
 - Show a picture of a hamburger
 - Explain how each part relates to paragraph structure
- Model the strategy:
 - Use a large visual or actual toy hamburger
 - Write a sample paragraph, pointing to each "layer" as you go
- Guided practice:
 - Provide students with hamburger graphic organizers
 - Work through an example together
- Independent practice:
 - Have students write their own paragraphs using the strategy

Tips for success:

- Use color-coding to differentiate parts of the paragraph
- Provide sentence starters for each "layer"
- Encourage students to make their details "juicy" (interesting and varied)
- Use the hamburger language when giving feedback (e.g., "Your top bun is strong!")

Common challenges and solutions:

- Vague topic sentences - Encourage specificity: "What's the main idea you want to share?"
- Repetitive details - Prompt for variety: "Can you add a new fact that's different?"
- Missing conclusion - Model wrap-up sentences: "What final thought do you want to leave with your reader?"

Reminders:

- Reinforce the metaphor regularly

- Adapt the strategy as needed for different learners
- Use visual aids and hands-on activities to support understanding
- By using the Hamburger Writing Strategy, you'll give your students a fun and effective tool for crafting well-structured paragraphs!