

SUPPORTING MATERIAL TO MAKE PARAGRAPHS COMPLETE

Functions of Supporting Material: Supporting Material is the specific detail (the amplification) one uses in paragraphs to —

1. clarify ideas
2. support and prove ideas
3. arouse interest
4. supply texture to a composition
5. amplify a particular point
6. enlarge upon a statement in order to make the reader understand, often by association of the new with the old

Types of Supporting Material (Specific Details)

1. Factual information — facts, dates, names, places, statistics, mathematics, formulas, degrees, temperatures, and the like for evidence and proof
2. Examples (must be an example of something specific, one item)
 - a. Short — an instance, brief but clear
 - b. Long — illustrations built up and extended
 - c. Real — actually exist or have happened
 - d. Imaginary — made up, fictitious, hypothetical cases
3. Explanation — a complete explanation, amplification of an idea, an enlargement
4. Description — building sensory images so that the reader "sees"
5. Narration — relating an incident or a "story," usually in a time sequence
6. Definition — clarifying an idea or term by trying to tell what it means
 - a. Positive definition — telling what it is
 - b. Definition by negation — telling what it is not
7. Comparison — showing similarities, likenesses
 - a. Similies
 - b. Metaphors
 - c. Analogies
 - (1) Literal analogies — real ones that exist
 - (2) Figurative — imageries of unlike objects
8. Contrast — showing differences, unlikeness
9. Expert testimony — what an expert in the field says