

SAMPLE WRITING PROCESS: CAUSE PARAGRAPH/ESSAY

Topic sentence: There are many reasons why Turkey is a popular destination for tourists.

Brainstorming: When you are given a topic for an essay or paragraph, it helps to brainstorm ideas related to this topic first. These ideas do not have to be very ordered or organised, just write down anything that comes into your head. It also helps to turn the topic sentence into a question (Why is Turkey a popular destination for tourists?).

Mountains

Beaches

Hospitality

Istanbul

History

Nightlife

Cheap

Antalya

Close to Europe/Russia

Hagia Sophia

Exotic

Culture

Weather

Byzantium

Food

Tourist infrastructure

Meze

Kebab

Nature

Uludag

Ottoman Empire

Topkapı Palace

Ephesus

Friendly people

Kapadokya

Black Sea

Plan: After you have finished brainstorming, you have to decide which of your ideas you want to include in your paragraph. You don't have to use all of the ideas, and it is often possible to group ideas together to illustrate a single point. Remember, you need at least two supporting ideas, plus one or two details or examples to describe each supporting idea.

This is one possible outline based on the list above:

Supporting idea 1: Nature

Details/Examples: Mountains – Uludağ

Beaches – Antalya

Supporting idea 2: History

Details/Examples: Istanbul – Byzantium – Hagia Sophia

- Ottoman Empire – Topkapı Palace

Supporting idea 3: Food

Details/Examples: Kebab

Meze

Paragraph: With this outline and your topic sentence, you can start writing your paragraph:

There are many reasons why Turkey is a popular destination for tourists. First of all, Turkey has a huge variety of nature. There are many different mountain ranges, such as the Kaçkar Mountains on the Black Sea, or Uludağ near Bursa. There are also many beautiful beaches on the west and south coasts, and especially around the city of Antalya. The second reason is that Turkey has a lot of history and historical sites. In Istanbul, for example, there is Hagia Sophia, the famous church built during the time of the Byzantine Empire. There is also Topkapı Palace, the home of many of the Ottoman Sultans. Finally, Turkey is also famous for its rich and healthy food. There are not only Kebabs, but also many different meze (appetizers) and fresh fish, usually accompanied by rakı (an aniseed-flavoured spirit). To sum up, whether you want beautiful beaches, steep mountains, ancient history or great food, you will find them in Turkey.

Turning This Paragraph into an Essay

To turn your paragraph into an essay, you keep the same structure, i.e. topic sentence – supporting idea 1 – supporting idea 2 – supporting idea 3 – concluding sentence. However, instead of using one sentence for the topic, two sentences for the supporting ideas, etc, you use one paragraph for each of these sections. So:

Topic sentence	→	Introductory paragraph
Supporting sentence 1	→	Supporting paragraph 1
Supporting sentence 2	→	Supporting paragraph 2
Supporting sentence 3	→	Supporting paragraph 3
Concluding sentence	→	Concluding paragraph

The **introductory paragraph** should include the topic sentence. However, this is not enough. You should also include some background information on your topic, something to grab the reader's attention. For example:

Turkey has long been very popular with tourists. In 2011, the country welcomed 31.4 million international tourists, making it the 6th most popular tourist destination in the World, behind only France, the US, China, Spain and Italy. This year, these numbers will probably increase further. There are a number of reasons to explain why Turkey is such a popular destination.

The **supporting paragraphs** also consist of a supporting idea plus examples, but because you have to write a paragraph, rather than just two sentences, you need to include a few more details. **Body Paragraph 1**, for example:

Turkey has an incredible variety of nature. Nearly every region has its own distinguishing natural features. Thus, you can find lush forests along the Black Sea coast, desert landscapes in the South-East, beautiful beaches along the west and south coasts, and huge mountains scattered throughout the interior. There are also unique natural attractions, such as the rock formations in Kapadokya and the hot springs of Pamukkale. This means that, whatever season they arrive in, tourists can find something to do. In summer they can laze on the beaches, in spring and autumn go hiking, and in winter go skiing on Uludag or in the mountains around Kars and Erzurum.

And Body Paragraph 2:

Turkey also has a lot of historical sites. Over the past two millenia and more, the country has been home to many different peoples, cultures and empires, and almost all of them have left traces. Istanbul is the most famous destination in this regard. Here, tourists can find world-famous monuments such as the Hagia Sophia church, built by a Byzantine emperor, or Topkapi Palace and the Blue Mosque, built by Ottoman sultans. However, almost every town in the country has some historical monument to boast of. For example, the small town of Efes on the Aegean coast has an incredibly well-preserved ancient Roman city, while Antakya in the far South is home to one of the oldest churches in the world. In short, for people interested in history, Turkey is a must-see destination.

Body Paragraph 3:

As well as natural and historical attractions, there is the food. While Turkish cuisine is probably most famous for the Doner Kebab, visitors to the country will find that there are many other delicious dishes as well. First, there is the huge selection of *meze*, appetizers made from vegetables, fish or meat, and usually accompanied by *raki*, an aniseed-flavoured spirit. Then there are the famous main dishes, such as Hunkar Begendi, made from aubergines and minced meat, or Iskender Kebab, lamb meat on fried bread, covered with tomato sauce and melted butter. Finally, there are the sweets and desserts, such as Baklava and Turkish Delight, which are justly famous around the world. All of these are generally fairly reasonably priced, so tourists don't have to spend a lot of money to eat good food.

Finally, the **conclusion**. The conclusion should include a summary of the main points included in the essay, plus a final statement that gives the reader something to think about. For example:

To sum up, Turkey has something for everyone – people who like their holidays to be active and those who just want to lie on the beach, history buffs or gourmets. There are very few countries in the world that can offer this kind of variety to tourists. Maybe you, too, will take your next holiday there?