

**Example Lesson Plan**

**Name:** Sallie Mae

**Date:** 8-29-01

**Time:** 8:00 A.M.

**Grade:** Four

**NCSCOS Subject/content area:** English Language Arts

**NCSCOS Goal Statement and Number:** (4) The learner will apply strategies and skills to create oral, written and visual texts.

**NCSCOS Objective Statement and Number:** (4.06) Compose a draft that conveys major ideas and maintains focus on the topic with specific, relevant, supporting details by using preliminary plans.

**Lesson Objective:** After participating in a discussion led by the teacher, the student will write a paragraph containing a topic sentence and at least four sentences that support the topic.

**Assessment Strategy:** The students will write a paragraph during independent practice in which they use a topic sentence and at least four supporting details.

**Materials:** Gummy Cheeseburgers  
McDonald's Cheeseburger  
Overhead projector  
Transparencies  
Markers

**Procedures for Lesson**

- 1. Focus and Review:** How many of you like to eat hamburgers? (Allow time for response) Me too Who likes to eat plain hamburger patties? ( Allow time for reaction.) Yuck! Me neither! I like lots of stuff on my hamburger! What do you like on your hamburger? (Call on several students and let them respond to the question.) (Looking for break, cheese, pickles, mustard, mayo, ketchup, lettuce, onions, etc.) Why do we put things on our hamburger patty? (Looking for "it makes it taste better, more interesting to eat.") Can you have a hamburger without the patty? No, you can't? Why not? (It is the part of the burger that links the other pieces together.) The hamburger patty is the most important piece of the hamburger.
- 2. Statement of Objective:** Today, you are going to learn how a paragraph is like a hamburger. The topic sentence is like the hamburger patty. It is the most important part of the paragraph. Supporting detail sentences are like the things you put on you hamburger to make it taste better. They help the paragraph become more interesting.
- 3. Teacher Input:** It is that way with writing too! When you are writing a paragraph, you must have a topic sentence or else it is not a paragraph. You have a bunch of sentences that are about different topics and the paragraph does not make sense. (Show an example of a paragraph without a topic sentence.) However, if you just have a topic sentence, it is very boring to read. (Show an example of a paragraph of just 1 sentence.) You need to spice it up and make it read better with sentences that support what was said in the topic sentence. Can anyone think of some supporting details we can add to our paragraph? Think of these supporting detail sentences as the cheese, pickles, and ketchup on the hamburger. They are what make the paragraph good to read! When you are

writing a paragraph, pretend that you are building a hamburger. You need to start with the patty or the topic sentence. Then you want to make the hamburger good to eat so you add stuff. The cheese, pickles, lettuce, etc all stand for the supporting details that you put into your sentences. So by the time that you are finished building your paragraph, it is fun and interesting to read.

4. **Guided Practice:** Let's try to write a paragraph using a hamburger to help us! Who can remember our discussion from yesterday and give me a topic? (Call on Jenna here to make sure she remembers what we discussed yesterday.) That is a good topic to write a paragraph about! Who can put that topic into a topic sentence that we can use? Write the sentence on the transparency. Place the patty on the overhead or somewhere the class can see. Ok, now that we have the meat, we need to spice it up a bit and make the paragraph interesting to read. Who wants to add to our hamburger and our paragraph by coming up with a sentence that describes or supports our topic sentence? \_\_\_\_\_ what do you want to add to the hamburger? (cheese, lettuce....) Ok, what is your sentence? Does that support our topic sentence? Ok, \_\_\_\_\_ come and add your cheese. Who else wants to add to our hamburger and our paragraph?.....Wow! Our hamburger is LOADED! It is going to taste GREAT!! I bet our paragraph will be just as fun to read because it is loaded with details. Who wants to read our paragraph for me? Was that a fun paragraph or a boring paragraph? Fun.
5. **Independent Practice:** Now it is your turn to build your own hamburger and paragraph! \_\_\_\_\_ I want you to use these Gummy Pieces and build you a hamburger just the way you like it. When you have finished building your hamburger, you are going to use the topic that you chose yesterday as your hamburger patty or topic sentence and build a fun paragraph to read. If you want, you can write what you are adding to your hamburger in the margin as you write your paragraph. Make sure that you have at least 4 things on your hamburger. That means you need 4 sentences that support your topic sentence. Can you put more than that? Yep! Go on and get started, I will be walking around and will answer any questions that you have as you are writing. Let them finish writing for the rest of our time (15 minutes).
6. **Closure:** Today we had fun talking about writing paragraphs! We built some really tasty looking hamburgers! We used the hamburgers to help us to write good paragraphs. Can anyone tell me what part of the paragraph we called the hamburger patty? (Topic sentence) Why? (Because it is the most important part, without it, we do not have a paragraph or a hamburger.) What did we call the parts of the paragraph that added spice and made it interesting to read? (Supporting details) That's right, they are the supporting details. Why is it important that the supporting details match the main idea? (It is their job to support or continue to describe the topic sentence. They make the paragraph more interesting to read.) Tomorrow we will continue writing paragraphs but this time, we are going to use a topic from science and write about that.

