

## Make It Yours

So that wraps up the tutorial on writing effective paragraphs. Now it's up to you to practice your writing. If you have any questions, you can contact your Athabasca University tutor or go to the AU Write Site for help with your writing projects.

I do have some parting words of advice: First, if you want to *write* good paragraphs, you'll have to *read* some good paragraphs. No one can learn to write well without seeing how it is done, and reading is the way to see how to write.

Second, it matters what you read. Dogs don't have kittens. If you read graphic novels, you will learn to write graphic novels. If you want to learn to write a report, you have to read reports. If you want to learn to write an academic essay, you have to read good examples of academic prose.

And finally, you have to master the rules before you can break them successfully. You may well find these writing guidelines a little dull and formulaic, but anyone who breaks the rules well, as many of our best writers do, first learned how to follow them, I promise you.

So if you are like most developing writers, you have a few years of doing it the standard way ahead of you before you're ready to improvise.

Good luck, stay in touch with your tutor, and enjoy learning!

Paragraph!—from the Greek, παράγραφος.