

## How to write a paragraph: the essentials

Table 1 The Do's and Don'ts of writing a paragraph:

<b>The Do's:</b>	<b>Against the Don'ts:</b>
Do have a single main idea.	Don't try to cover too much.
Do break up long paragraphs.	Don't let paragraphs go on too long.
Do comment on and explain evidence.	Don't just list your evidence.
Do link paragraphs together.	Don't separate ideas completely.
Do develop your ideas fully with evidence, comment and explanation.	Don't write one sentence paragraphs.
Do write between 150 to 350 words.	

### The PEEL Model:

**P** for **Point**, ensure you make your point.

**E** for **Evidence**, present support for your point, remember to include references.

**E** for **Evaluation**, interpret the evidence, judge the quality or weight of evidence, present alternate view points and limitations to the evidence.

**L** for **Link**, summarise the point and link it back to your main argument or topic.

### Example

In addition to the incidents in interaction with the public, the police force has been accused of institutional racism with regards to its recruitment and promotion (Yashmin, 2010; Drabble, 2013). For example, minority police officers constitute only 10% of the Metropolitan Police Force (BPA, 2013), whereas over 40% of London's population are from BME backgrounds. Similarly, there are proportionally fewer minority police officers of higher ranks than white officers when compared to those in lower ranks (Yashmin, 2010). Such imbalances were found to occur across the country (Drabble, 2013), although many media reports focused on London (e.g. the Guardian, 2013). This suggests that the police's recruitment and promotion approaches are racially biased. It may also indicate that it is not an attractive profession for young people of ethnic minorities, and a negative workplace once they enter. Therefore, there is evidence to indicate some racial bias within the organisation, although this is disputed by many senior officers.