



Descriptive Process

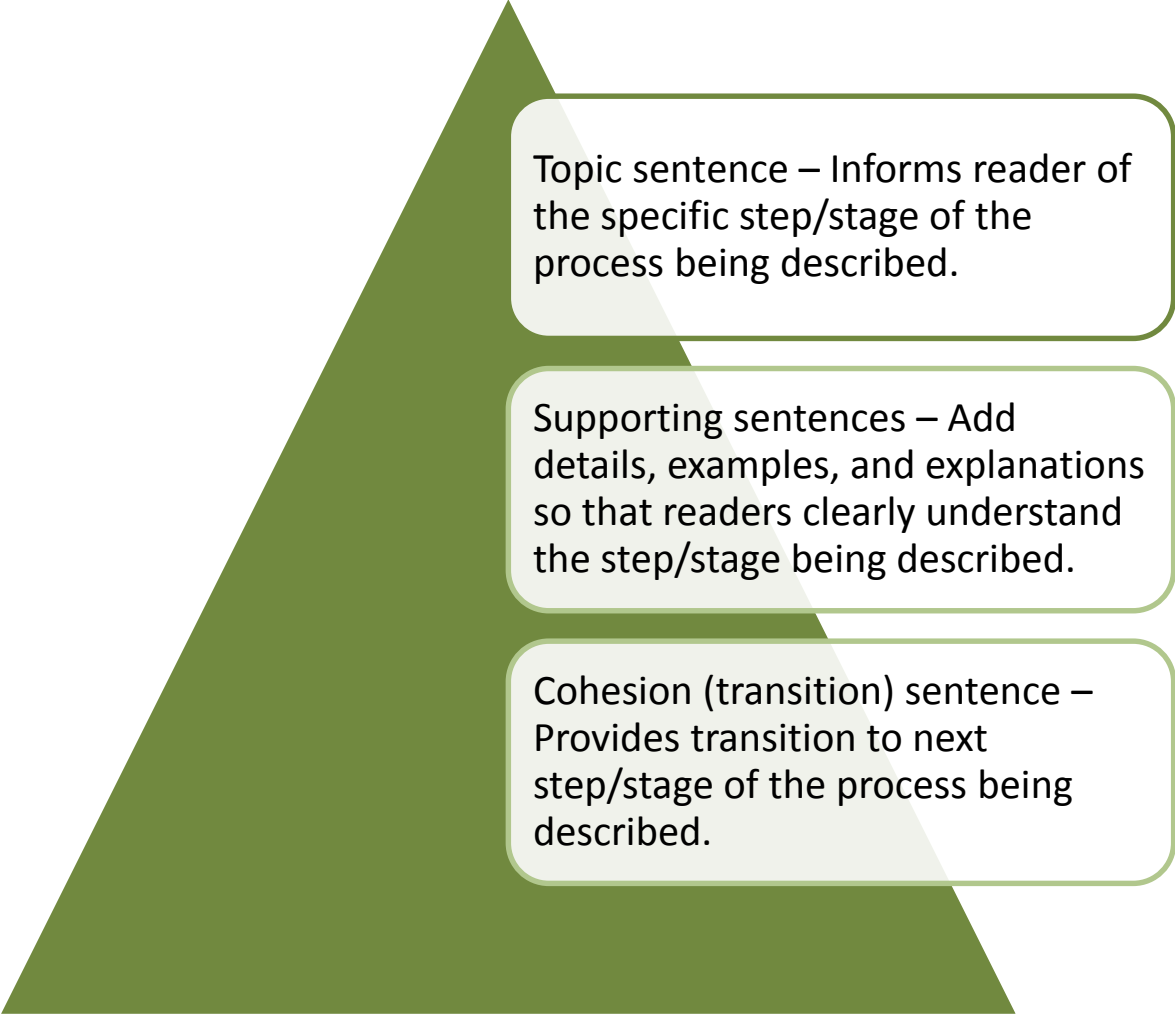
Body Paragraphs

Purpose of a process body paragraph

- To describe each step/stage of a process in chronological order
- To provide details/examples/explanations related to the step
- To provide cohesion between each step/stage in the process



An overview

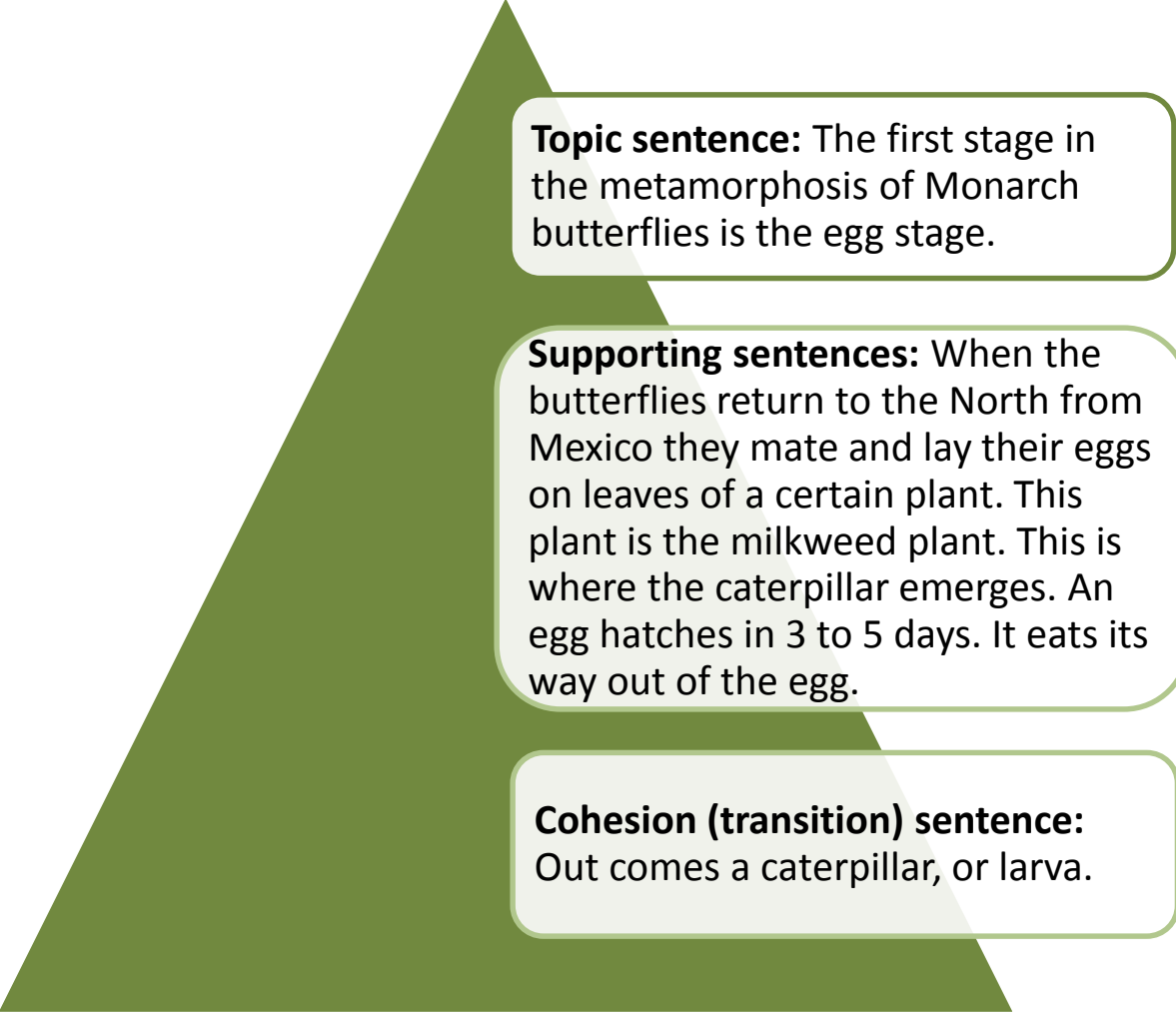


Topic sentence – Informs reader of the specific step/stage of the process being described.

Supporting sentences – Add details, examples, and explanations so that readers clearly understand the step/stage being described.

Cohesion (transition) sentence – Provides transition to next step/stage of the process being described.

An overview (cont.)



Topic sentence: The first stage in the metamorphosis of Monarch butterflies is the egg stage.

Supporting sentences: When the butterflies return to the North from Mexico they mate and lay their eggs on leaves of a certain plant. This plant is the milkweed plant. This is where the caterpillar emerges. An egg hatches in 3 to 5 days. It eats its way out of the egg.

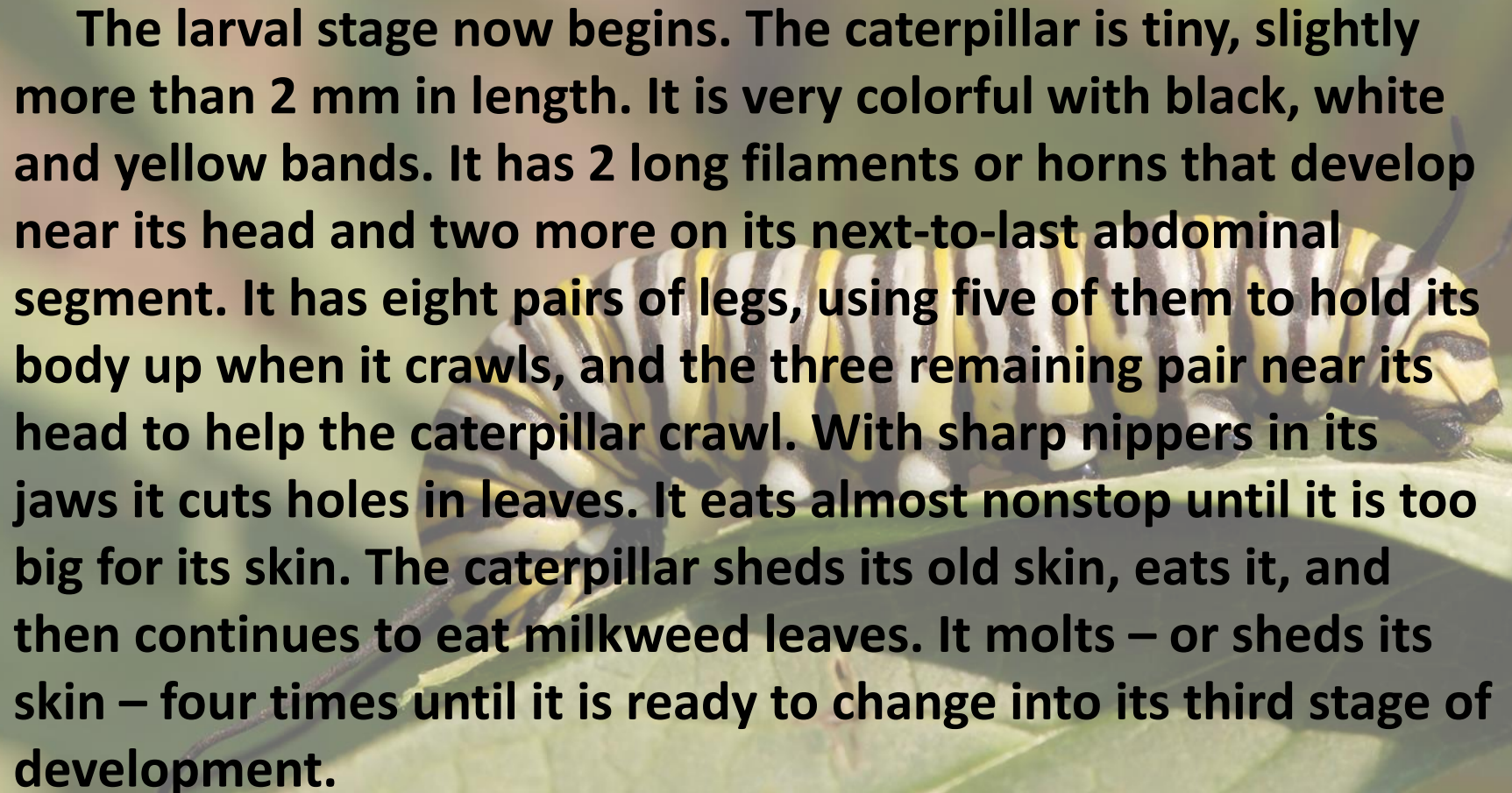
Cohesion (transition) sentence:
Out comes a caterpillar, or larva.

Model body paragraph 1

The first stage in the metamorphosis of Monarch butterflies is the egg stage. When the butterflies return to the North from Mexico they mate and lay their eggs on leaves of a certain plant. This plant is the milkweed plant. This is where the caterpillar emerges. An egg hatches in 3 to 5 days. It eats its way out of the egg. Out comes a caterpillar, or larva.

Model body paragraph 2

The larval stage now begins. The caterpillar is tiny, slightly more than 2 mm in length. It is very colorful with black, white and yellow bands. It has 2 long filaments or horns that develop near its head and two more on its next-to-last abdominal segment. It has eight pairs of legs, using five of them to hold its body up when it crawls, and the three remaining pair near its head to help the caterpillar crawl. With sharp nippers in its jaws it cuts holes in leaves. It eats almost nonstop until it is too big for its skin. The caterpillar sheds its old skin, eats it, and then continues to eat milkweed leaves. It molts – or sheds its skin – four times until it is ready to change into its third stage of development.

A monarch caterpillar with black, white, and yellow stripes is shown crawling on a green leaf. The caterpillar is positioned horizontally across the middle of the frame, facing right. Its body is covered in distinct black and white bands on a yellow background. Two long, thin filaments (horns) extend from its head. The leaf it is on is large and green, with visible veins. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting a natural outdoor setting.

Model body paragraph 3

In the third stage of the metamorphosis process, the caterpillar becomes a pupa, or chrysalis. Caterpillars pupate by forming bluish-green shells around themselves for protection. The pupae attach and hang upside down from twigs. The pupae are immotile and, thus, cannot fight off intruders; fortunately, the shells act as shields. A cocoon of silk is formed around the bodies of the pupae, providing further protection and preventing the pupae from drying out. Development proceeds as organs and structures form. The tissues of the pupae break down into a liquid, and butterfly structures begin to take form. The Monarch chrysalis is one of the most beautiful objects in the natural world. It is jade and emerald green with glittering gold and black dots. After seven days the colors of the chrysalis change, and the dark orange and black of the wings begins to show. Within 10-12 days the shiny, now perfectly translucent skin of the chrysalis splits and the butterfly emerges.

Model body paragraph 4

The fourth – and final – stage of the metamorphosis, the butterfly stage, now commences. The butterfly is damp, crumpled when it emerges. It pumps liquid into the black veins of its wings to stiffen them. It is a beautiful butterfly with orange and gold and brown wings. Black veins streak its wings and white dots border the wings and cover the black, velvety head and thorax. It has two pairs of wings which are covered with dust-fine scales. The scales overlap like shingles on a roof so that it can shed rain. Its wingspan is 75-100 mm.



Review

Topic sentence

1. States the step/stage in the process which will be explained.
2. Usually contains a chronological transition.

Supporting sentences

1. Provide details, examples and explanations for the step/stage being explained.
2. Include transitions for flow of ideas and cohesion

Final sentence

Often provides cohesion between following paragraph by foreshadowing the step/stage explained in the next paragraph.