

Dragon Breath Paragraphs

Text: 641-642

Paragraph 1 – Overview (Summary)

1. What conditions were necessary for the flour to burn?
2. Why do grain elevators need a way to control static electricity discharge?
3. What is the product of burning carbon-based fuels that is the topic of global concern?

Basic expectations for Paragraph 1:

1. Start the paragraph with a “Level 1” introduction. This is your topic sentence.

Example: *“A combustion reaction occurs...”*

2. Use a “Level 2” sentence to transition to the main discussion:

Example: *“The conditions necessary for a combustion reaction were demonstrated during the Dragon Breath activity.”*

3. “Level 3” sentences describe the specific conditions identified / observed through observation and reading the text.

Example: *“When we placed a match on the small pile of flour ...”*

4. “Level 4” sentences introduce advanced topics to the discussion. Advanced topics are not merely mentioned – they must be developed into full, relevant ideas that connect with the topic of the sentence.

Example: *“Knowing the conditions which cause flour to burn has helped reduce the possibility of grain elevator from blowing up.”*

5. Wrap up the paragraph with a meaningful clincher sentence.

Example: *“It seems that dragons should think twice before lighting up.”*

Paragraph 2 guidelines on back

Paragraph 2 - Classification of Dragon Breath Reaction (Argument)

Burning can be classified into different categories of reactions. Create a paragraph which describes how this lab may demonstrate the basics of combustion, synthesis, decomposition and/or displacement reactions. Include a topic sentence and details of evidence of the different types of reactions. This should be treated as an argument paragraph. Use the steps below as a guide to write your argument which identifies your claim (what type of reaction) and the evidence you are using to make the claim.

Note: Burning of pure carbon: $C(\text{solid}) + O_2(\text{gas}) \rightarrow CO_2(\text{gas})$
Synthesis: $A + B \rightarrow AB$
Burning a carbohydrate: $C_6H_{12}O_6(\text{solid}) + O_2 \rightarrow CO_2(\text{gas}) + H_2O(\text{gas})$
Decomposition: $ABC + C \rightarrow AC + BC$
(the complex carbohydrate is broken down into simpler water and carbon dioxide)

How to Write an Argument Paragraph

- Step 1: Assert yourself. What is your main idea? What is your claim? Be sure to identify the source and words from the prompt to express your claim. Be specific.
- Step 2: Illustrate your point. Use evidence from the text, your observations, and/ additional research to prove your side. Evidence can be directly quoted or paraphrased, but must support your claim. Choose the best piece of evidence from your sources to support your idea.
- Step 3: Analyze the evidence. Explain why and how this evidence from your sources supports your claim. Use your own experiences and background information here to help with your analysis and explanation of the evidence.
- Step 4: Illustrate your point, again. Use evidence from the article to prove your side. Evidence can be directly quoted or paraphrased, but must support your claim. Choose the second best piece of evidence from the article to support your idea.
- Step 5: Analyze the evidence. Explain why and how this evidence from the article supports your claim. Use your own experiences and background information here to help with your analysis and explanation of the evidence.
- Step 6: Conclude. Be sure to end with a clincher statement that refers directly back to your claim (but doesn't simply repeat it).