**The structure of an ideal academic paragraph**

A paragraph contains:

* A topic sentence: what the paragraph is about
* Supporting sentences: expansion of a paragraph, for example, give more explanation, evidence, examples and statistics (and references are to be included for any information from another source)
* A concluding sentence: this will round off the paragraph, draw a conclusion and/or link to the next paragraph

**Materials for the paragraph analysis exercise**

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| **Paragraph 1a**  When they hear it, they open their eyes and look around for sound. Judging from where they look in order to hear certain voices, researchers have concluded that they prefer certain kinds of speech, including rising tones spoken by women or children (Sullivan & Horowitz, 1983). |

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| **Paragraph 1b**  Babies are more sensitive to speech than to other sounds. When they hear it, they open their eyes and look around for sound. Judging from where they look in order to hear certain voices, researchers have concluded that they prefer certain kinds of speech, including rising tones spoken by women or children (Sullivan & Horowitz, 1983). |