

Describing a process

- 9 A process paragraph is a description of how something works or how something is done. It explains the steps you need to follow to complete an activity. Read the following science experiment and do the exercises below.

Evaporation is the process of changing from a liquid to a vapor. A simple experiment can be done to learn more about how evaporation works. ¹First, collect the necessary supplies to complete the experiment: one sheet of black construction paper, a small paint brush, a small cup of water, and a watch with a second hand. ²Next, place the paper on a dry, flat surface in the shade. ³Now wet the paint brush in the water and dab a drop of water onto the black paper. ⁴Immediately after wetting the paper, begin timing how long it takes for the water stain to dry up, or evaporate. When the water has dried, write the time down. ⁵At this point, begin the same experiment again by completing all of the steps, except that the paper should be placed under direct sunlight, or some type of heat source. ⁶Time how long the water takes to evaporate again. ⁷Finally, compare the two times, and answer the following questions: Where did the water go? Did a heat source, such as sunlight, make the water evaporate more slowly or more quickly? Why? By completing this simple experiment, it is possible to easily learn about the process of evaporation.

- a. Underline the topic sentence and the concluding sentence of the paragraph.
- b. List the steps for completing the experiment in the order you find them.
 1. *Collect the necessary supplies to complete the experiment.*
 2.
 3.
 4.
 5.
 6.
 7.
- c. How are the steps in the paragraph connected together? What words do you see that help show the sequence to follow? Underline them.