

Extended example. Use one longer example to support your topic sentence.

Contrast. Support your topic sentence by contrasting what your term *is* with what it is *not*. For instance, you may want to define a *fair-weather friend* by contrasting his or her actions with those of a true friend.

- c. Once you have created a topic sentence and decided how to develop your paragraph, make a scratch outline. If you are using a contrast method of development, remember to present the details one side at a time or point by point (see pages 232–233).
- d. Write a first draft of your paragraph.

REVISING

As you revise your paragraph, keep these questions in mind.

FOUR BASES Checklist: Definition

ABOUT UNITY

- ✓ Does my topic sentence (1) place my term in a class and (2) name some special features that set it apart from its class?
- ✓ Is the rest of my paragraph on target in support of my topic sentence?

ABOUT SUPPORT

- ✓ Have I made a clear choice to develop my topic sentence through several examples, or one extended example, or contrast?

ABOUT COHERENCE

- ✓ If I have chosen to illustrate my topic through contrast, have I consistently followed either a point-by-point or a one-side-at-a-time format?
- ✓ Have I used appropriate transitions (*another, in addition, in contrast, for example*) to tie my thoughts together?

ABOUT SENTENCE SKILLS

- ✓ Have I used a consistent point of view throughout my paragraph?
- ✓ Have I used specific rather than general words?
- ✓ Have I avoided wordiness?
- ✓ Are my sentences varied?
- ✓ Have I checked for spelling and other sentence skills, as listed on the inside back cover of the book?

Continue revising your work until you can answer “yes” to each of these questions.