

## **How to Write a Proper Paragraph in Academic Writing**

Sras Hem<sup>1</sup>

College of Law, The University of Cambodia, Northbridge Road,  
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

### **Abstract**

Long paragraphs are often seen in many writings in any language. They are difficult for the reader to capture the meaning quickly. Sometimes, the reader does not want to read the paper when he or she sees the long paragraphs in it. Thus, long paragraphs are an obstacle for attracting the reader's first attention, and the writer cannot achieve what he or she wants to convey to the reader. In response to this problem, this paper proposes a new rule for writing proper paragraphs in an academic setting in order to achieve clear and concise language and attract the reader's attention right away. In light of proposing this rule, this paper observes the causes of writing long paragraphs in Cambodia. The paper finds that Cambodians write such long paragraphs for two reasons: the first is students' general (mis)perception over the organization of an essay. The second is the tendency for Cambodian students or writers to write rhetorically or poetically when authoring an essay or paper. Both factors have contributed to Cambodians writing long paragraphs with several main ideas, which makes it difficult to distinguish the main, supporting, and concluding ideas. In order to improve this, the paper sets a new rule by restricting the number of lines in a sentence and the number of sentences in a paragraph. This suggested rule is not limited to Cambodia, but also other countries that find it useful in writing a proper paragraph in an esthetic and balanced way.

---

<sup>1</sup>[dean\\_col@uc.edu.kh](mailto:dean_col@uc.edu.kh)