



## What Is the FOCUS of Your Writing?

When your group trio put together the animal report, the big topic was a specific animal. However, there were 7 different paragraphs because there were 7 SUBTOPICS. Each paragraph was about specific aspects of the general topic: your animal's shelter, its food, its predators, its habitat, etc. Different paragraphs were needed because the general umbrella topic was too big for a single paragraph! A paragraph should have a FOCUS, or specific aim.

Directions:

*Below, are two paragraphs. After you read them both, we'll discuss the FOCUS of each of them. Even though these two paragraphs both discuss the snowy owl, one of the paragraphs has a narrower focus. Which paragraph is this? \_\_\_\_\_*

Paragraph 1:

The snowy owl is an interesting bird. It is white, has orange eyes, little brown spots, a small beak that points downwards, and tiny feet. The white color helps it camouflage in snow. Also, its small feet help it grab food. It hunts for food such as rats and rabbits at dusk. During the winter, it visits airport landing fields that remind it of its natural habitat in the snowy Arctic. In the city, it lives by snow-covered air strips. Snowy owls are fascinating birds.

Paragraph2:

The snowy owl is living successfully in northern cities. In the winter, this white bird with orange eyes, little brown spots, a small beak that points downwards, and tiny feet makes its home near snow-covered airport landing fields. The owl roosts on open ground, camouflaged by the white snow that covers the air strip. The airport's landing fields resemble the tundra that is the natural Arctic habitat for this bird. At dusk, the snowy owl hunts for mice, rats and rabbits. The owl does not let the noise of the jets disturb its hunting, and can sometimes crouch on a small mound of snow to wait for prey. It has adapted well to urban areas and finds the shelter and food it needs to survive.