

Traffic Light Colors for Accordion Paragraphs

Use the colors of a traffic light to help you write a paragraph.



green

Go!

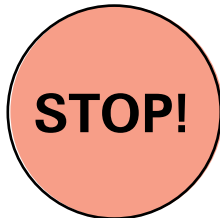
Write a topic sentence.



yellow

Slow down!

Introduce a key/star (big idea) by using a transition word or phrase.



red

Stop!

Elaborate by providing an example, evidence, or explanation. This is also called supporting your key/star ideas.



green

Go back!

Remind readers of your topic.

Dolphin: Fish or Mammal

The dolphin may look like a fish, but this fascinating sea creature is really a mammal. First of all, dolphins have lungs just like humans do. They must come to the surface of the water to breathe and get oxygen from the air. Fish can take oxygen from the water. Like other mammals, dolphins are also warm-blooded. Dolphins stay warm because they have a thick layer of blubber under their skin. Finally, dolphin females nurse their young on milk. That is just like how a cow might nurse a calf. The dolphin's streamlined body and its big, strong tail resemble a fish, but don't be fooled: dolphins are definitely mammals.