

SAMPLE PARAGRAPH USING PRESENT TENSE VERBS

When writing about songs, poems, books, short stories, and movies, you must use present tense verbs. Present tense verbs often end with the letter "S." Here is an example of a documented paragraph that uses present tense verbs.

SAMPLE PARAGRAPH USING PRESENT TENSE VERBS

In the story "Drinking Coffee Elsewhere" by ZZ Packer, Dina claims she is "a misanthrope" (122), but actually she's afraid for people to get to know her. During her counseling sessions with Dr. Raeburn, it becomes more challenging for Dina to make up stories about herself. Dr. Raeburn inquires about a young man that she encounters as a young girl in Baltimore. He asks if she has had any relations with a young man. The narrator explains, "I couldn't tell him the rest: that I had not wanted the boy to walk me home, that I didn't want someone with so nice shoes to see where I lived. Dr. Raeburn would only have pitied me if I'd told him that I ran down the sidewalk after I told him no..." (133). Even though Dina doesn't tell the doctor the truth about what really happens, she knows the truth, which hurts her even more. The narrator explains, "You never kissed anyone. The words slid from my brain and knotted my stomach" (135). She knows that she is socially handicapped and afraid to get close to anyone, though she pretends to hate mankind.

Packer, ZZ. "Drinking Coffee Elsewhere." 2007. Drinking Coffee Elsewhere.

New York: Berkley Group, 2003. 117-47. Print.