


The Topic Sentence



Topic Sentence

- A topic sentence is a sentence that indicates what idea or thesis a paragraph is going to deal with.
- Topic sentences can occur anywhere in the paragraph but an easy way to make sure your reader understands the topic of the paragraph is to put your topic sentence near the beginning of the paragraph.

- Here is an example of a proper paragraph with supporting sentences:

-  **Topic Sentence**
I had a wonderful summer. First, I started sleeping in every day. I would then go swimming with my friends. I stayed up late watching TV a lot, and I went to camp for a week. I wished my summer would never end!

- **What is the topic sentence?** (*what is the paragraph about?*) "**I had a wonderful summer**" is the topic sentence.

Everything else supports that idea. The final sentence is the concluding sentence. It sums up what the author wants to communicate in the paragraph. "I wished my summer would never end!".

- Here is an example of a paragraph that has a sentence that doesn't quite fit in:
- Regardless of what some people may think, the desert is a beautiful place. The blossoming wildflowers in the spring are a joy to see. Spectacular sunsets delight the eye. Sometimes I go swimming. The occasional quail or roadrunner dart across the sandy roads. It is a unique experience.

What doesn't belong? "**Sometimes I go swimming**" has nothing whatsoever to do with the topic sentence that states that the desert is a beautiful place.

Topic Sentence

Regardless of what some people may think, the desert is a beautiful place. The blossoming wildflowers in the spring are a joy to see. Spectacular sunsets delight the eye. ~~Sometimes I go swimming.~~ The occasional quail or roadrunner dart across the sandy roads. It is a unique experience.

Remember

- Each paragraph should have a topic sentence.
- These sentences represent the subtopics of your essay
- These sentences **MUST** link clearly to your thesis statement