

WRITING EXCITING PARAGRAPHS

(Remember waaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaay back in 6th grade?)

TOPIC SENTENCE

Topic Sentence- The sentence within a paragraph that states the main thought and is often placed at the very beginning or end of the paragraph. The purpose of the topic sentence is to let the reader (audience) know what you are writing about and to introduce the main ideas.

When I was growing up, one of the places I enjoyed the most was the cherry tree in my back yard.

What is a bad topic sentence? Ask yourself these questions...

1. Does the topic sentence present one- and only one- topic?
2. Does the sentence give strong direction to the whole paragraph?
3. Does the sentence use words specific enough to be focused and clear?

If not, it is probably a bad topic sentence.

UNFOCUSED: Too many people treat animals badly in experiments. (What people? What is meant by badly? What kind of experiments?)

FOCUSED: The cosmetic industry often harms animals in unnecessary experiments designed to test their products.

THE DEVELOPMENT (BODY)

The Development/ Body- The sentences that support the topic sentence and provide details.

⊛ The length of a paragraph is dependent on the quality of the content, not on some arbitrary number (like "5 sentences"). A paragraph should be as long as it needs to be. ⊛

CONCLUDING SENTENCE

Concluding Sentence- The concluding sentence restates the topic sentence with new words at the end of the paragraph. The purpose of the concluding sentence is to wrap up the paragraph and bring all the ideas back together.

Topic Sentence: The cosmetic industry often harms animals in unnecessary experiments designed to test their products.

Concluding Sentence: The cruelty to animals during experimentation is not worth the tradeoff of having better beauty products

Topic Sentence: If I were stranded on a desert island, I would want my best friend, books, and water.

Concluding Sentence: Being stranded on a desert island would be a lot harder to bear without my best friend, books, and water.

SAMPLE PARAGRAPH

Topic Sentence: My brother has some disgusting and inconsiderate habits.

Supporting Sentence #1: He loves to chew on toothpicks

Detail: That would not be so bad if he didn't leave them lying all over the house.

Detail: Sometimes they even get stuck in the carpet.

Supporting Sentence #2: Another bad habit he has is walking through the house with his muddy boots.

Detail: He will walk right across a freshly washed floor.

Detail: He will take his boots off and leave them in the middle of the floor for everyone to trip over.

Supporting Sentence #3: He leaves hair all over the shower and the soap.

Detail: He doesn't bother to rinse the shower out or to rinse the soap off.

Detail: This is inconsiderate because everyone else has to use the shower too.

Conclusion: If my brother lived alone, he could be the slob that he is without anyone else caring, but since he lives with other people, it would help if he showed a little more consideration for his family!

Name: _____ Period: _____

REVIEW

1) What is a topic sentence?

2) What is the purpose of a topic sentence?

3) Where in the paragraph does the topic sentence usually come?

4) What is one way to describe a bad topic sentence?

5) Write a bad topic sentence that illustrates your point in #4:

6) What is the body, or development of a paragraph?

7) What purpose does the body serve in a paragraph?

8) How many sentences should the body of the paragraph have?

9) What is the concluding sentence?

10) What is the purpose of the concluding sentence?

✪ Write a topic sentence based on the following prompts: ✪

11) What do you think makes a utopia (perfect world)?

12) What do you hope to accomplish this year?

13) Write about a time that you had to stick up for someone.

14) What is power? Who has power? Do you have power?

✪Write a concluding sentence based on the following topic sentences: ✪

15) Ever since I was five and had my first dentist appointment, the sound of drills gives me the chills.

16) The people I choose to be my friends are not only fun to be around, but are also honest, trustworthy, and loyal.

✪Read the following paragraph:✪

My brother has some disgusting and inconsiderate habits. He loves to chew on toothpicks. That would not be so bad if he didn't leave them lying all over the house. Sometimes they even get stuck in the carpet. Another bad habit he has is walking through the house with his muddy boots. My cat's breath smells like cat food. He will walk right across a freshly washed floor. He will take his boots off and leave them in the middle of the floor for everyone to trip over. He leaves hair all over the shower and the soap. He doesn't bother to rinse the shower out or to rinse the soap off. This is inconsiderate because everyone else has to use the shower too. If my brother lived alone, he could be the slob that he is without anyone else caring, but since he lives with other people, it would help if he showed a little more consideration for his family!

17) Underline the topic sentence.

18) Circle the concluding sentence.

19) Cross out the sentence that does not belong.

20) Number the supporting sentences.