

# Lesson 13: How to Write a Topic Sentence

**Purpose of Lesson 13:** You will learn how to write a topic sentence.

**Skills:** Reading comprehension, vocabulary, and writing.

## Words to Learn:

**paragraph** - a group of sentences related to the same idea.

*Note: Indent the first sentence of the paragraph. Indent using the TAB key once.*

*Nick's essay has four paragraphs.*

**process** - how to do something.

*Learning to write a paragraph is part of the process in learning how to write an essay.*

**sentence** - a complete thought.

*A sentence has to have good grammar and spelling.*

**supporting details** - facts and information used to describe or explain the main idea of a paragraph.

*Fall is a beautiful season. The leaves have brilliant colors, the sky is brilliant blue and the weather is still quite warm.*

**task** – job.







*On Saturday, Nicholas has several tasks to do around the house.*

**topic sentence** - the sentence in the paragraph that tells the reader what the paragraph is about.

*The topic sentence is very important.*

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**Directions:** Dora and Ms. Shine are having another conference.

1	2
 <p>I need some help with writing a <b>paragraph</b> and putting an essay together.</p>	 <p>Let's not talk about an essay just yet. At this time we will concentrate on writing paragraphs. Instead of saying "essay", let's just call it a "piece of writing" for now.</p>
3	4
 <p>Ok, whatever you say. I guess I am anxious to get started now that we have finished the unit on prewriting.</p>	 <p>I assure you that we will write essays. Remember I said we have to take it one step at a time. I want to give the class some tips about writing before we start. I call them "Super Tips".</p>
5	6
 <p>Going step by step is good for me. It is easier to follow because it breaks the information down.</p>	 <p>Let's look at the Super Tips.</p>

## Super Tips for Writing

- Write **sentences** that communicate what you want to say. That is your most important **task** for now.
- Write in an organized way so that it makes sense. Example: time order
- At this time, do not be concerned with proper spelling, grammar or vocabulary.
- Each paragraph has a **topic sentence**.
- Each paragraph must have **supporting details**.
- When appropriate, include your own observations, experiences and knowledge in your writing.

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Ouch! **Supporting details**, writing an organized paragraph, and coming up with a topic sentence for each paragraph sounds scary to me. Learning about prewriting was easier.

8



Don't panic. The good news is you already have a lot of it done. You did it in Unit Two.

9



I brought Unit Two with me. What part of Unit Two are you talking about?

10



Let's review Lesson 10 and Lesson 11. That is where you organized your information by grouping similar information together and putting a title on your list.

11



Fabulous! The class will be thrilled to hear this. However, I still do not know how to write a paragraph.

12



We will, but right now, let's focus on the topic sentence. It is important. The next step is learning how to write a topic sentence. We will practice this in class. **Remember:**

- (a) The title of the list is the main idea of that list.
- (b) The main idea of each list becomes the topic sentence for that list.

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OK. Now I know where the topic sentence comes from. How do you write one? Is it difficult?

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You can do it. We'll tackle this task just like we learned how to prewrite: one step at a time. Let's get started.

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*Continued after Quiz 1*

**Later in Class...**

Today we are going to practice writing a topic sentence. I have the lists we grouped from Unit Two. I want to remind you that there can be more than once correct answer for the lists and the titles. There can be more than once correct answer for the topic sentences, too. The answer will vary from student to student but the **process** is the same. It is the process that we are going to practice.



*Continued after Quiz 3*

**Practice, practice, and more practice!**



***Now you can make more of your own topic sentences.*** The groupings and titles below have been provided by Ms. Shine. Remember, there is no one single answer that is right. In fact, there can be several answers that are “good”. Be sure to ask your teacher if you need more help. Good Luck!