



Topic Sentences

A topic sentence is a guide to a paragraph. Each paragraph should have its own topic sentence and should focus on only one main idea or point. A topic sentence, unlike a thesis statement, doesn't have to present an argument. It can present a "preview" of what the paragraph will argue or discuss.

There are a few important functions: it substantiates or supports an essay's thesis statement and also it unifies the content of a paragraph and directs the order of the sentences. It is often best to put the topic sentence at the very beginning of the paragraph.

There are two different types: **obvious** and **implied**. It is better to focus on **obvious** topic sentences. **Remember:** the goal of your essay/paragraph is to get your point across in a clear, concise, and persuasive manner.

A rule of thumb: If the topic sentence comes at or towards the end of the paragraph you should move it up to the beginning.