



# Topic Sentence



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# Key Features

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Every paragraph should have the following:

- A topic sentence
- Supporting sentences
- A concluding sentence



- A topic sentence is the sentence that tells the reader the main idea of the paragraph.
- The topic sentence should be limited to only **one main idea**. That is, it develops the topic in one specific direction.
- The topic sentence is often found at the beginning of the paragraph.

**Topic Sentence:** it states the main idea of the paragraph.



**The most important problem in our city is its poor public transportation system.** Thousands of residents rely on the city's buses and taxis to travel throughout this large city, while the Metro Transportation System's daily schedules are totally unreliable. A bus or taxi that should arrive at 7:45 may not arrive until 8:00 or later. Moreover, it is not unusual for a bus driver to pass up groups of people waiting for the bus because he wants to make up for lost time. Unfortunately, people often end up going to work late or missing important appointments. **In order for people to get to their destinations on time, people must allow for waiting time at the bus and taxis stops.**

**Concluding Sentence**

**Supporting Sentences**

# What could be a topic sentence?

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He collects books that were written over a hundred years ago. He is also interested in the famous books of today. If I ever need to get him a present, I know I can always please him by buying him a book.

Which of the following topic sentences is the best one for the above paragraph?

- Reading is fun.
- Books are my father's hobby.
- My father was a main influence in my life.

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## Topic Sentence Essentials Two Parts :

A topic sentence must contain the topic of the paragraph and the controlling idea.

## The topic: subject of your paragraph

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1. Bread is an important part of our everyday food.
2. Potatoes are good for you.
3. The hamburger is a popular food in the United States.
4. Rice is a nutritious part of our diet.

# Controlling idea: one aspect you write about

Topic = Rice (what you want to write about rice is your controlling idea?)

1. Rice plays an important part in some cultural occasions.
2. Rice is a nutritious part of our diet.
3. White rice is not healthy for you.



### Topic Sentence

One of the most serious problems in today's public schools is the low percentage of trained teachers.

7. An area of the English language that is especially difficult for foreign language students is pronunciation.

8. One important way to save energy is to install solar panels on top of one's house.

# Bad topic sentences

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Potatoes are healthy

Students are bored

\_\_\_\_\_. The first most obvious effect is the deterioration of a smoker's health. Smoking increases the risk of lung disease, increases blood pressure, increases the risk of heart attacks, and reduces the flow of oxygen to the brain. Smoking creates respiratory problems. Second, smoking frequently results in social isolation because fewer people smoke or want to be in the presence of second-hand smoke. The final effect of smoking is that it is now an expensive habit, and the price of cigarettes continues to rise. The effects of smoking are many, which leaves one wondering why intelligent people do not find a way to break their harmful addiction.

# Write a topic sentence for the following

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- Social media
- Studying foreign languages
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# Topic sentence - a complete sentence

## Example 1

**It is not a complete sentence; it is a title**

**Strategies of learning English.**

**You can learn a new language by using three main strategies.**

~~The sport of cycling.~~

This is not a  
complete sentence.

The sport of cycling has allowed me to get in  
better shape and meet some interesting  
people.

Topic  
sentence

~~Why do I want to be a teacher?~~

This is a question,  
not a statement.

Being a teacher is a great profession  
because it allows me to work with students  
and be creative.

Topic  
sentence





~~I want to talk about the benefits of  
learning a foreign language.~~

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**This is an  
announcement**

**Learning a foreign language has  
several benefits.**

**Topic  
sentence**