

Unit

1

The Topic Sentence

Unit Goal Writing a topic sentence

Key Points Writing your thoughts or feelings
Writing facts or information
Introducing the body

Warm-up

 Read the text and answer the questions.

What I Want to Learn

I really want to learn how to swim. To be honest, I am a little afraid of the water. I always feel like I might drown when I go in the water. If I learn to swim, the fear will go away. Also, everyone in my family and all my friends already know how to swim. If I learn to swim, I can have more fun with them at the beach or the pool. Finally, swimming is a great way to exercise. It will make my body strong and healthy. I hope to be a good swimmer someday soon.



1. Underline the topic sentence.
2. What is the paragraph mainly about?
 - a. Why the writer's family and friends like to swim
 - b. Why the writer wants to learn how to swim
 - c. Where the writer goes swimming



topic sentence

- It usually comes at the beginning of a paragraph.
- It tells the paragraph's topic.
- It gives an idea about what the paragraph will be about.



Write the correct topic sentence from the box above each outline.

- David Beckham is an English soccer player.
- Soccer is one of the world's most popular sports.
- People should play sports for many reasons.
- Ice hockey is very important to Canada.

Topic sentence:

Body:

- played in almost every country
- just need a ball, so easy and fun to play
- millions of people watch the World Cup

Topic sentence:

Body:

- can make friends
- learn about working with other people
- good exercise

Topic sentence:

Body:

- one of the most well-known soccer players
- played in England, Spain, Italy, and the U.S.
- has been in many advertisements
- wife was a member of the Spice Girls

Topic sentence:

Body:

- is Canada's national winter sport
- the sport that the most people watch and go to games for
- the sport that Canada has won the most international games in

You can write a topic sentence in the following ways.

Write what you think or how you feel about the topic.

My Uncle Joe is the funniest person I know.

*** Try to write specific topic sentences.**

(okay) *I like my Uncle Joe.*

(better) *My Uncle Joe is the funniest person I know.*



Circle the better topic sentences.

- My dog is my best friend.
 - My dog is nice.
- The *Harry Potter* books are great.
 - The *Harry Potter* books are fun for everyone.



Read the body sentences. Then, write topic sentences by saying what you think or how you feel.

Topic sentence:

Body sentences:

- My apartment is safe.
- It is very clean.
- The neighbors are friendly.
- It is close to my school.

Topic sentence:

Body sentences:

- Superhero movies are entertaining.
- They teach us how to be good people.
- They have amazing special effects.
- Everyone can enjoy superhero movies.

Write facts or information about the topic.

Michael Jackson was a famous American singer.

*** Try to write interesting topic sentences.**

(bad) *Michael Jackson sang and danced.*

(good) *Michael Jackson was a famous American singer.*



Circle the better topic sentences.

- SpongeBob SquarePants* is on TV.
 - SpongeBob SquarePants* is a popular children's cartoon.
- Harvard University is one of the best colleges in the world.
 - Everybody knows Harvard University.



Read the body sentences. Then, write topic sentences by giving facts or information.

Topic sentence:

Body sentences:

- Barack Obama was born in Hawaii in 1961.
- His father was from Kenya, Africa.
- He went to Columbia University and Harvard Law School.
- He was elected U.S. president in 2008.

Topic sentence:

Body sentences:

- Hanbok is very colorful and bright.
- It has two parts, but men wear pants and women wear skirts.
- Long ago, Korean people wore hanbok every day.
- Today, people wear hanbok for special occasions like weddings and holidays.



Introduce what the body will say.

Rules are important for several reasons.*

* You can also use words like “*many*,” “*a lot of*,” “*a few*,” or a number (*three, four, etc.*).



Read the body sentences. Then, write topic sentences by introducing what the body will say. Use the words in the parentheses.

Topic sentence: (ways)

Body sentences:

- You can get good grades to make your parents happy.
- You can clean your room without your parents telling you to.
- You can say “thank you” and “I love you” to your parents.
- You can do nice things for them on Parents’ Day.

Topic sentence: (similarities and differences)

Body sentences:

- Both glasses and contacts help you see better.
- You have to go to the eye doctor to get glasses or contacts.
- Glasses change how you look, but regular contacts don’t.
- You have to throw away contacts after a certain period, but you don’t have to throw away glasses.

Don't

Don't say something too obvious in the topic sentence.

Bad: *Prince William is a person.*

Good: *Prince William is the future King of England.*

Don't give too many details in the topic sentence.

Bad: *My math teacher is so smart that he can do math problems quicker than a calculator.*

Good: *My math teacher is a genius.*

Don't start the topic sentence with "This paragraph is about..." or "I will write about..."

Bad: *This paragraph is about Christmas.*

Good: *Christmas is the best time of year.*



Write if the given topic sentences are "Good" or "Bad."

1. () I will never forget my summer vacation in California.
2. () I am going to write about my vacation.
3. () I have cereal, eggs, bacon, and orange juice for breakfast and feel great.
4. () It is important to have a good breakfast.
5. () Seoul is a city.
6. () I think Seoul is the best place to live in South Korea.



Rewrite these bad topic sentences.

1. **Topic sentence:** Pasta is food. (**Topic:** Pasta)

→ _____

2. **Topic sentence:** Yuna Kim is the most famous person in Korea because she won the Olympic gold medal in figure skating. (**Topic:** Yuna Kim)

→ _____

3. **Topic sentence:** This paragraph is about my best friend. (**Topic:** My best friend)

→ _____

Brainstorming

↩ Brainstorm about a skill you want to learn and why.

Example



Your Brainstorming



Outline what you brainstormed on page 12.

Example

- Topic** want to learn how to swim
- Body**
- 1) afraid of the water → fear will go away if I learn to swim
 - 2) family and friends know how to swim
→ can have more fun with them at the beach or pool
 - 3) swimming is a great way to exercise
→ will make my body strong and healthy
- Closing** hope to be a good swimmer someday soon

Your Outlining

Topic

Body

Closing