

## Basic Principles Of Topic Sentences

- The topic sentence is a sentence that is used at the beginning of a paragraph to introduce to the reader what you are going to be writing about in that paragraph.
- Each topic sentence should connect to and support one key aspect of the essay's thesis statement.
- It should be connected to the paragraph before it (i.e., with a transition).
- It must be a point or an argument that you can prove with the evidence at hand (e.g., evidence from your texts or from your research).
- All sentences in the paragraph must relate to the topic sentence in some way: otherwise, they are off topic.
- Avoid the use of first person: "In this paragraph I will explore/argue" etc. It is more effective to simply state the argument or point of analysis directly, without the first person.
- Don't summarize the plot in your topic sentences.
- Don't introduce evidence in your topic sentences.