

## Topic Sentences

No matter how many body paragraphs an essay has, it is essential that each contain a **topic sentence**. A topic sentence provides direction for the structure and flow of the paragraph and also keeps the reader's mind focused on the direct purpose of the paragraph, and the essay as a whole.

I. Example essay topic: *The most important items in my bedroom*

Rate the following topic sentences in how they provide direction, maintain interest, and stick to the essay's topic.

- \_\_\_\_\_ A. Of the many important items kept in my bedroom, the one that has the most significance to me is my baseball card collection.
- \_\_\_\_\_ B. I have many important items in my room that are very meaningful to me.
- \_\_\_\_\_ C. My stuffed animals are very important to me.
- \_\_\_\_\_ D. With clothes all over the floor, it's impossible to find anything in my bedroom.
- \_\_\_\_\_ E. A final item in my bedroom, and the most meaningful, is my television.
- \_\_\_\_\_ F. I was given a special collector's edition Pez dispenser.
- \_\_\_\_\_ G. I have books, clothes, video games, and posters in my bedroom.

II. Create three sample topic sentences for each of the following essay topics. One is done for you in each. Be creative, accurate, and exciting.

1. *The biggest influences in my life*

- A. My third grade teacher has had the most profound influence on my life.
- B.
- C.

2. *Important family traditions*

- A.
- B. Another of the many important family traditions my family has is that every winter we spoil ourselves with Chinese take-out on Christmas Eve.
- C.

3. *Your special places*

- A.
- B.
- C. My final, and most important, special place is my home away from home, Grandma and Grandpa's house.

III. Which of the below topic sentences works best for the following paragraph?

- A. Baseball is by far my most favorite sport to play and watch.
- B. I have several favorite sports that I love to be a part of.
- C. Watching baseball games can be fun for anyone.
- D. I enjoy being a part of several sports, including baseball, football, and wrestling.

There is nothing more fun than spending a spring afternoon turning double plays, taking batting practice, and conditioning for the season. After practice I enjoy turning on ESPN to see who might be playing, or tuning in to the nightly broadcast of the Mariners. Baseball entertains me on the field and in the stands.

- A. Our school needs several changes to create more success for our students.
- B. Another positive change for school would be pushing the start time back one hour.
- C. Studies show that starting school later and giving longer breaks between classes enables more learning to take place
- D. An extra hour of sleep in the mornings would create tired and drowsy students who are not ready to be successful in class.

If students were allowed an extra hour of sleep in the morning, their brains would be more active upon arrival to school and they would be more focused on learning. Too often students nap their way through class, or are apathetic towards assignments. If they slept in one more hour they would be sharp and attentive. An active mind is a learning mind, so students need more time for morning rest.

IV. Create two interesting essay topics and write them below. Then give your paper to a partner where they will create three clear topic sentences for each.

Topic-

T.S. 1-

T.S. 2-

T.S. 3-

Topic-

T.S. 1-

T.S. 2-

T.S. 3-