

Identify the Topic Sentence

Review: The topic sentence is the most important sentence of a paragraph. It states the main idea and introduces the reader to the topic.

Directions: Choose the best topic sentence for each group of supporting sentences and circle the answer.

Example: _____ b _____. I usually go skiing every weekend in the winter even though it is expensive. I love the feeling of flying down a mountain. The views are beautiful from the top of a mountain and along the trails. Even the danger of falling and getting hurt can't keep me away from the slopes on a winter day.

- a) Skiing is expensive.
- b) **Skiing is my favorite sport.**
- c) Skiing is dangerous.

1) _____. North Americans send cards for many occasions. They send cards to family and friends on birthdays and holidays. They also send thank-you cards, get well cards, graduation cards, and congratulation cards. It is very common to buy cards in stores and send them through the mail, but turning on the computer and sending cards over the Internet is also popular.

- a) Sending cards is very popular in North America.
- b) Birthday cards are the most popular kind of card.
- c) It is important to send thank-you cards.

2) _____. I enjoy summer sports like water skiing and baseball. The weather is usually sunny and hot, so I can go to the beach almost every day. Gardening is my hobby and I spend many summer days working in my garden. Unfortunately, the days pass too quickly in summer.

- a) I like to garden in summer.
- b) Summer is my favorite season.
- c) Summer is too short.

3) _____. First of all, we need money to repair old roads and build new roads. We also need more to pay teachers' salaries and to pay for services such as trash collection. Finally, more tax money is needed to give financial help to the poor citizens of the city. It is clear that the city will have serious problems if taxes are not raised soon.

- a) We should raise city taxes.
- b) City taxes are too high.
- c) City taxes pay for new roads.

4) _____. For example, a person can have breakfast in New York, board an airplane, and have dinner in Paris. A businesswoman in London can instantly place an order with a factory in Hong Kong by sending a fax. Furthermore, a schoolboy in Tokyo can turn on a TV and watch a baseball game being played in Los Angeles.

- a) Airplanes have changed our lives.
- b) Advances in technology have made the world seem smaller.
- c) The fax machine was an important invention.

5) _____. One thing you must consider is the quality of the university's educational program. You also need to think about the school's size and location. Finally, you must be sure to consider the university's tuition to make sure you can afford to go to school there.

- a) It is expensive to attend a university in the United States.
- b) There are several factors to consider when you choose a university to attend.
- c) You should consider getting a good education.

Topic Sentences and Paragraphs

Directions: Read each question, and circle the correct answer.

1. Which sentence would be BEST to put at the start of the paragraph below?

Jim likes to play football. His sister plays baseball. His brother is on a basketball team. His parents like to ski in the winter.

- A. Jim has a large family.
- B. Jim's family enjoys sports.
- C. Playing sports is good exercise.

2. Which would be the BEST topic sentence for this paragraph?

My school has recess every day. I like to play on the swings and jungle gym with my friends. We like to laugh and run. Recess is my favorite time of the day.

- A. Recess is when I can have fun with my friends.
- B. Some kids bring their toys from home for recess.
- C. Parents sometimes bring their small children during recess for a visit.

3. Which is the BEST topic sentence that could be put at the beginning of this paragraph?

I play basketball every weekend. My friends and I play it at recess and after school. My mom took me to a basketball game. I got to see Michael Jordan play. That was the greatest because basketball is my favorite game.

- A. Basketball is my favorite game.
- B. Michael Jordan was a great basketball player.
- C. Some people play both football and basketball.

4. Which would make the BEST topic sentence for the paragraph below?

Matt likes dogs and playing soccer. Claire likes cats and playing tennis. Matt likes to eat pizza. Claire's favorite food is spaghetti.

- A. Matt and Claire like animals.
- B. Pizza and spaghetti taste good.
- C. Matt and Claire like different things.

5. Which sentence below would be the best starting sentence for the following paragraph?

It took our bus four hours to get to Sea World. We saw whales, seals, and sharks. There were also many fish in tanks.

- A. Our class took a trip.
- B. One of my favorite things was the whale.
- C. I ate lunch outside with my class.

6. What sentence below tells what this paragraph is about?

- A. I made dinner for my family.
- B. I stirred the rice.
- C. I peeled the carrots.

7. Which would be the BEST sentence to put at the beginning of the following paragraph?

Georgia has a new flag. The flag has the state seal. South Carolina's flag has a tree and the moon. The flag of Wyoming has a buffalo.

- A. California's flag has a bear.
- B. Every state has a different flag.
- C. Georgia's flag is very interesting.

8. Which sentence tells what the paragraph is about?

Our family spent the vacation at the beach. It was sunny and breezy. The sand felt warm under our feet. We made sand castles and had lunch on our blanket. It was a fun time.

- A. Our family spent the vacation at the beach.
- B. It was sunny and breezy.
- C. We made sand castles and had lunch on our blanket.