

## Occasion and Position

### Analyzing Your Topic Sentence

Every topic sentence has these two parts:

- a reason for writing (occasion/topic/subject)
- statement about what the writer plans to prove or explain (position/opinion/attitude)

In *Step Up to Writing* we refer to one kind of complex sentence as an Occasion/Position Statement.

Example: **Although Prohibition during the 1920s and 30s banned the production and selling of alcohol,**  
 (occasion)  
many citizens found ways to overlook these laws.  
 (position)

All topic sentence styles, however, can be analyzed by applying the terms **occasion** and **position**.

- Examples:
1. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt showed great concern for the suffering of our nation's poor. (Action Topic Sentence)  
 (occasion) – **Eleanor Roosevelt**  
 (position) – showed concern for poor
  2. Eleanor Roosevelt found several ways to promote the rights of women in our country. (Number/Power Statement)  
 (occasion) – **Eleanor Roosevelt**  
 (position) – promoted rights of women
  3. During her years in the White House, Eleanor Roosevelt traveled to many parts of the country to support the New Deal programs. (Where or When + What's Happening)  
 (occasion) - **Eleanor Roosevelt**  
 (position) - supported New Deal programs