

Topic Sentences

Definition: A topic sentence in a paragraph presents the writer's reason for writing and tells the reader what the writer plans to prove or explain.

- Topic sentences are used in information/expository writing.
- Topic sentences can be written in any tone: serious, humorous, threatening, encouraging, inspiring, etc.
- The tone of the topic sentence depends on the purpose of the paragraph and the audience reading the paragraph.
- Topic sentences can be very short. Example: I love volleyball.
- Topic sentences can be long and elaborate. Example: I may be the shortest, least coordinated player on our varsity volleyball team, but I am, without a doubt, the most passionate.
- Paragraph assignments in all subject areas require strong, clear topic sentences.
 - Math – My classmate and I found four examples of isosceles triangles in the pictures and charts in our classroom.
 - Science – Today in science we learned how scientists use adult herring gulls to test for instinctive behaviors.
 - Music – Mrs. Romano, our music teacher, demonstrated two simple ways to harmonize.
 - Literature – Maya Angelou's poem "Caged Bird" reminds all of us of the power and importance of freedom.