

Topic Sentences

A topic sentence is the first sentence of a paragraph, and it acts like a mini thesis statement. Just like a thesis tells the reader exactly what the whole essay is about, a topic sentence tells the reader exactly what the paragraph is about. There are a couple of VERY important things to remember when writing topic sentences:

- 1) Topic sentences need to relate directly back to the thesis
- 2) Topic sentences should be statements or ideas, not simple facts.
- 3) Each support from your thesis statement becomes its own topic sentence.

Below is an example of a box and bullets outline for the thesis and topic sentences.

Thesis

I am proud of our country because we have risen above adversity, survived catastrophes, and created communities.

TS 1 **First, I am proud of our country because we have risen above adversity.**

TS 2 **Next, I am proud of our country because we have survived catastrophes.**

TS 3 **Finally, I am proud of our country because we have created communities.**

Topic Sentences

Write your thesis in the box, and your best topic sentence next to each bullet. Remember, topic sentences should be factual supports for your thesis; this means they can be supported with facts and relate to your thesis!

Standard 8: Informational Organization

Standard 9: Informational Ideas

Thesis

TS 1

TS 2

TS 3