

Writing Topic Sentences

Topic Sentences, also known as “Focus sentences,” lead every paragraph and help to organize the essay.

- ✓ In academic essays, topic sentences are the first sentence of each paragraph.
- ✓ Each topic sentence should tell the reader exactly what the paragraph is about.
- ✓ Remember to begin a paragraph (and thus a new topic sentence) when you begin discussing a new topic.

Topic Sentences should relate all paragraphs to the thesis statement

- ✓ EXAMPLE: “Many fast-food chains make their profits from adding a special ingredient called ‘forget sauce’ to their foods.”
- ✓ If this sentence controls the paragraph that follows, then all sentences in that paragraph should relate in some way to fast food, profit, or “forget sauce.”

Topic Sentences make a point and give reasons or examples to support it.

- ✓ Just as a thesis announces your topic and position, a topic sentence states the subject and focus of your paragraphs.
- ✓ Well-written paragraphs focus on a single point, which is summarized in a topic sentence.

Sometimes a topic sentence will summarize or restate a point made in the previous paragraph, helping the reader to understand what they’ve read as they move on to the next point or paragraph.

Ask a QEP Writing Studio Tutor about this topic for more information!

Stop by and see us in 143 Johnson Hall! We offer 30 minute appointments and walk-in hours to GE 102 and GE 103 students Monday – Friday: 9:00-4:00. Or contact us at QEPWritingStudio@mail.ecsu.edu or (252) 335-4326.

We look forward to working with you!