

## Introduction

A topic sentence essentially tells readers what a paragraph is about. All sentences after it have to give more information about that sentence, prove or substantiate it by offering facts, details and further information. The sentences that succeed the topic sentence serve to describe it in more detail. Topic sentences also need to relate back to the thesis of the essay, which as we have learnt previously is defined in the introductory paragraph. The thesis statement is like a road map that will tell the reader or listener where you are going with this information or how you are treating it. For this reason, every topic sentence will have a topic and a controlling idea. The controlling idea shows the direction the sentences that follow will take. This means that every topic sentence can be analysed to identify the topic or subject and its controlling idea or main point. Take a look at the table below:

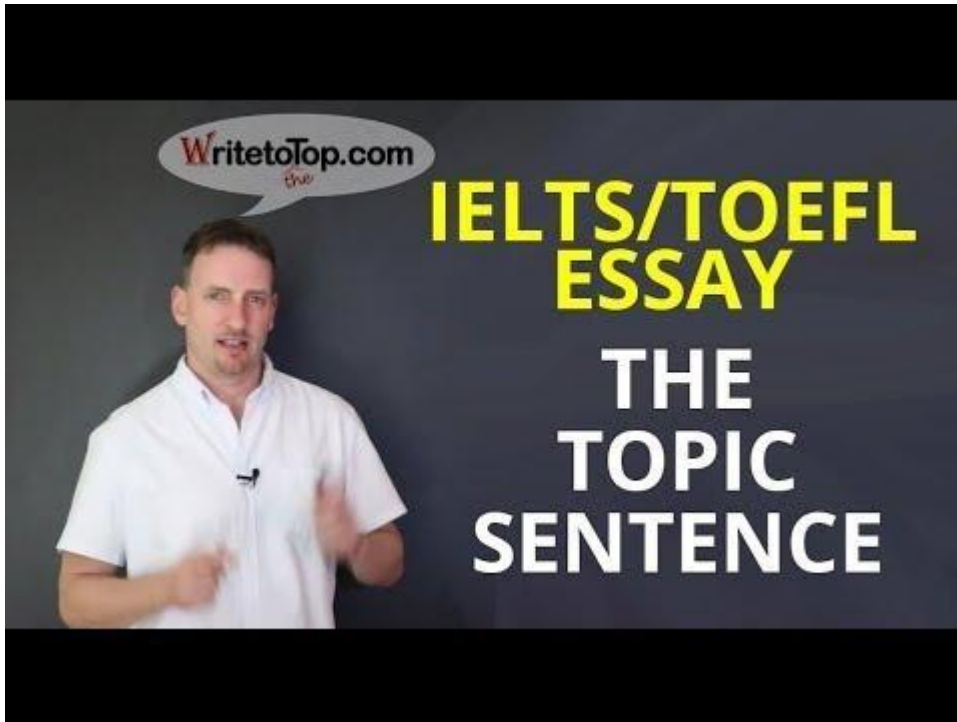
		<b>Topic/Subject</b>	<b>Controlling idea/ Main point</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Sentence</b>	<b>There are many reasons why pollution in China is the worst in the world.</b>	
	<b>Components</b>	pollution in China is the worst in the world	many reasons
<b>4</b>	<b>Sentence</b>	<b>To be an effective CEO requires certain characteristics</b>	
	<b>Components</b>	To be an effective CEO	certain characteristics
<b>3</b>	<b>Sentence</b>	<b>There are many possible contributing factors to global warming</b>	
	<b>Components</b>	global warming	contributing factors
	<b>Sentence</b>	<b>Fortune hunters encounter many difficulties when exploring a shipwreck</b>	
	<b>Components</b>	exploring a shipwreck	many difficulties

These examples were taken from <https://examples.yourdictionary.com/examples-of-topic-sentences.html>.

A carefully thought out topic sentence has two functions. First, it helps you, the author, to stay focused. Second, a clearly stated topic and controlling idea will give readers the tools they need to clearly understand what you have to say. Remember that topic sentences set the tone for the paragraph and should relate back to the thesis or the main idea of the paper.

## Learning Content

The following video contains an interesting and practical illustration of how to write a topic sentences:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EEKVH9Z4dIU>



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E1\\_WBCGfho8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E1_WBCGfho8)

Whereas a thesis statement expresses the central argument or claim of a paper, a topic sentence begins each body paragraph with a point in support of this larger thesis. Topic sentences provide an essay with structure and organization by breaking break down the thesis argument into a series of smaller claims.

An Effective Topic Sentence Should:

1. *Be a sub-point of the thesis.*

It should discuss, in greater specificity, a point discussed or implied by the thesis statement.

2. *Set up your claim.*

Each topic sentence should explicitly establish a claim that the paragraph will prove.

3. *Transition.*

A strong topic sentence connects or relates to the previous point.

4. *Be your idea.*

The topic sentence should be a point you make, not a point from one of your sources.

### **Tips for Writing Topic Sentence**

- Construct a “mini thesis statement.

”If a thesis is a road map to a paper, then a topic sentence is a guidepost for a paragraph. Think of each topic sentence as a mini thesis, organizing and enabling the development of each paragraph in a paper. It should be a clear, specific, focused, and arguable claim.

- Incorporate vocabulary from your thesis.

Incorporating some of the same words or language from the thesis statement into a topic sentence can give the argument a sense of coherence. Doing so can also show the reader how a particular point relates to the larger thesis.

- Make a topic sentence outline.

To ensure that topic sentences function as sub-points of your thesis, copy and paste all of your topic sentences into a blank document. If these topic sentences create an outline of the paper and a roadmap for the entire argument, then they are functioning correctly. If they do not, then identify the places where topic sentences should be revised to more accurately reflect the content of the argument

**Source:** Topic sentences. [https://www.dug.edu/assets/Documents/writing-center/\\_pdf/Topic%20Sentences%20March\\_2017.pdf](https://www.dug.edu/assets/Documents/writing-center/_pdf/Topic%20Sentences%20March_2017.pdf) Accessed on [23 March 2020]

## Summary

To summarise, topic sentences serve to define what a paragraph will be about and contain two elements: the topic, e.g. Covid-19, and the controlling or main idea, i.e. has changed the world forever.