

# THE TOPIC SENTENCE

A very quick refresher on the Topic Sentence of a paragraph

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## The Topic Sentence informs the rest of the paragraph

Think of a paragraph as a bag of goods.

You want to keep only one type of thing into one bag. Maybe you want to keep only CDs in one bag. Maybe you want all of your punk rock CDs in a bag and all of your country music in another.

Whatever it is, you just want one thing in that bag. Now, so you don't forget, you have to label the bag.

The label is the topic sentence and everything in the bag belongs to that topic.

First you need a topic sentence. The topic sentence is what the rest of the paragraph will discuss.

For example, if I wanted to discuss Las Vegas, my topic sentence might be, 'Las Vegas is more than just casinos'.

Write down your own topic sentence. It can be anything you can support. A few examples:

- I like the summer time.
- The Chicago Bears will sadly not win the Super Bowl.
- The Rolling Stones are the best band in music.
- I like \_\_\_\_\_ (put whatever you like in the blank).

# MAKING YOUR OWN PARAGRAPH

It's your turn to make a paragraph.

If you have your topic sentence, then the rest really is just supporting it with 2-3 other sentences.

Look at the example to the right for how the Las Vegas topic sentence is shaping up.

Las Vegas is more than just casinos. Sure, Las Vegas may have a lot of casinos, but we also have areas like Red Rock Canyon where people can go hiking and biking. Las Vegas also is home to one of the top ranked Taekwondo teams coming out from NV Taekwondo. Finally, Las Vegas is home to Nellis Air Force Base. As one can see, Las Vegas is a lot more than just casinos.

That's it. I started with the topic sentence (in red) and then I supported it with details. That's all there is to it. Remember, do not forget to cite if you use another person's idea or words!