

Lesson 8. The Topic Sentence

When you write an expository composition or essay, you will divide your writing into groups of sentences. Each group of sentences is called a paragraph. Here are some things to keep in mind when you write paragraphs.

A paragraph is a group of sentences about one topic.

- Indent the first line.
- Begin or end with a topic sentence that states the main idea.
- Use detail sentences to support the main idea.
- Be sure your paragraphs follow a logical order.
- Be sure all the paragraphs relate to the main idea of your composition or essay.

Exercise 8a. Writing a Topic Sentence that States the Main Idea

Directions: Read each paragraph. Write a simple topic sentence on the blank line before each paragraph.

Example:

_____ Dogs are useful animals. _____

Dogs make great pets. They are also hard workers. Farmers use dogs to guard sheep and other animals. Business owners use them to keep burglars away. Police use dogs to search for and rescue people. People who can't see use dogs as guides. In wintry places like Alaska, dogs are used to pull sleds.

1. _____

The first section contains world news and the big events like disasters, where many people got injured or died. The second section is often where you will find local news about your town, county, and state. A third section is usually devoted to sports. Sunday editions often include additional sections such as comics, real estate, travel, business, and classified ads.