

Writing a Topic Sentence Activity

Read about writing topic sentences. (Page 2)

Look at a photo of the ocean, listen to crashing waves, and read a few thoughts about relaxing things that one can do at the ocean. (Page 3)

Write a paragraph about being around water in the summer. Use what you read about topic sentences to write your paragraph's topic sentence. (Page 4)



“When you start writing, determine a lead—a first, beginning sentence—that summarizes what you’re going to say or prepares your reader for where you’re going.”

Writing Topic Sentences

How Does a Paragraph Work?

A **paragraph** is a group of sentences about one main idea. When you read, you can spot a paragraph easily. The first line may be indented (beginning a little to the right of the others). Otherwise, space separates the paragraph from other paragraphs, like the paragraphs on this page. When you write, be sure to indent each of your paragraphs.

Readers expect each paragraph to stick to one idea. A paragraph usually contains a **topic sentence** that tells what that main idea is. The rest of the sentences support, or explain, the topic sentence.

There’s no rule about how long a paragraph should be. Yet think about how long *you* like a paragraph to be when you’re reading—not too long, right? Four to six sentences is a good length. A paragraph is a “bite-sized” chunk of writing.

A Good Topic Sentence Clues the Reader

Writers often place a topic sentence at the beginning of a paragraph. In that position, it lets the reader know up front what to expect. For example, look at Luis’s funny story about taking his children swimming. His topic sentences are underlined. After each topic sentence, the rest of the paragraph tells you more about that main idea.

Going to the Pool

Have you ever taken three children to the pool? It sounds easy. However, let me tell you what it’s really like.

First, I have to get everything ready. My wife is so helpful. She gives me a list of 73 things to take with me. Each kid also must take 27 special toys and other items. I fill every tote bag in the house, but I forget the towels. Oops.

When we arrive at the pool, we need to change into our suits. The girls go into the women’s showers by themselves. Will they ever come out? I wonder. My son and I are out of the showers in an instant. We are ready to go. We wait and wait and wait for the girls. . . .

The next step is to put on the sunscreen. Do you know how much a little boy can wiggle? He has sunscreen in his eyes and hair by the time I’m done. The girls refuse to let me help them. I say then they better do a good job! They are sassy. “We know how to do it, Dad. We’re not babies.”

Finally, it’s time to swim. Ready, set, jump in!

A Day at the Ocean



Click [HERE](#) to hear some crashing waves.

Spend a day at the ocean or at a lake

Dig your toes into the sand. Build a sandcastle or two. Run down the beach, feel the wind in your hair. Notice how the soft summer breeze feels against your face. Sit on the water's edge where the sand just begins to get wet and dig a hole with your hands until you reach water. Do you remember doing that when you were younger? Walk along the beach with your feet in the water, splashing as you go. Collect seashells, look for sand dollars and sea urchins. Inhale deeply, letting the fresh air vitalize you. How do you feel? Do you feel refreshed? Do you feel tranquil?

[Source](#)

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