



Topic Sentence: What's the Topic?

The topic sentence in a paragraph clearly states the main idea of the paragraph. While it is usually at the beginning of the paragraph, it also can be in the middle or end of it.

Topic: Are life jackets important?

Example: Everyone should wear a life jacket when they are on a boat. Life jackets have been proven to save lives. No one can predict when an accident might happen. There may not be enough time to put on a life jacket, but if you are already wearing it, it may save your life.

The topic sentence in the example is underlined. The rest of the sentences in the paragraph support the topic sentences.

Below are topic sentences. Write what you think the topic is for each one.

1. Having friends and being a good friend can sometimes be work.
2. Reading is the most important subject in school because reading is necessary in order to learn all the other subjects.
3. Cell phones should be turned off during class time because if they ring, they can distract all the students in the class.
4. You can save water by turning off the faucet when you brush your teeth, fixing any leaks in the pipes, and taking a shower instead of a bath.
5. After-school art programs are a good way for students to have fun, stay out of trouble, and learn about art.
6. A field trip should be interesting to all the students and go someplace the students usually don't go.
7. I would like to play drums in a band because they keep the rhythm for the rest of band members.
8. A pet can teach you responsibility, give you love, and be there when you need a friend.



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Student's answers will vary. Examples of correct answers:

Below are topic sentences. Write what you think the topic is for each one.

1. Having friends and being a good friend can sometimes be work.

Is it easy to be a friend?

2. Reading is the most important subject in school because reading is necessary in order to learn all the other subjects.

What is the most important subject in school?

3. Cell phones should be turned off during class time because if they ring, they can distract all the students in the class.

Should students be allowed to have cell phones in class?

4. You can save water by turning off the faucet when you brush your teeth, fixing any leaks in the pipes, and taking a shower instead of a bath.

What are ways to save water?

5. After-school art programs are a good way for students to have fun, stay out of trouble, and learn about art.

Should there be more after-school art programs at school?

6. A field trip should be interesting to all the students and go someplace the students usually don't go.

What is a good field trip?

7. I would like to play drums in a band because they keep the rhythm for the rest of band members.

What instrument in a band would you like to play?

8. A pet can teach you responsibility, give you love, and be there when you need a friend.

What are the advantages of owning a pet?