

2/3/14

Name _____

Period _____

TOPIC SENTENCE STRATEGIES ASSIGNMENT - USE THIS WORKSHEET OR SEPARATE PAPER TO TURN IN

REVISED TO INCLUDE ALL THREE STRATEGIES

We'll workshop models in class today

Homework/assignment: due Thursday: Turn in

one example each of these three topic sentence strategies

- occasion/author's intent - (now included here)
- however statement - new today
- compound sentence - new today

Each topic sentence should be a "mini" argument about WWI for your American ideals essay.

Follow each of your topic sentences with 3 bullet points of evidence.

Your bullet points of evidence only need to be phrases - complete sentences not necessary as long as you and I understand what they mean!

MODEL 1: occasion/author's intent:

In this exercise, write history the way you understand it by starting with an "occasion / author's intent" topic sentence for your new paragraph that **states a fact** about America's WWI experience, **then interprets that fact** based on evidence and support your thesis.. For example:

Ex. 1: "America entered WWI in 1917 because of war-fever and idealism and suffered over 300,000 casualties for it's effort, earning little in the end.

Ex. 2: President Wilson was an idealist, and his idealism inspired Americans to see their role in world conflicts as carrying out American ideals - not grabbing territory or resources.

Your turn. Use this beginning to draft your own topic sentence that supports your thesis "America entered WWI in 1917..."

Now add three phrases to your topic sentence (just notes, don't have to be sentences) showing three pieces of evidence backing up your topic sentence.

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MODEL 2: **however statements**: *However* is one of several words (conjunctive adverbs) that will help you organize your thoughts into a topic sentence. Use *however* in the middle of the sentence. **You will need a semicolon before the word *however* and a comma after the word *however*.** This will cause you to create a compound sentence. The first part will be the occasion and the second part will state your position. Example: ***The new rules for the school cafeteria seemed unfair to the students; however, the rules have made the cafeteria a better place to eat lunch.***

WWI "However" statement examples (note that each is a "mini" argument):

Ex. 1: President Wilson did not get his 14 Points; however, his American idealism inspired Europe to agree to the League of Nations and work together for a world without war.

Ex. 2: Wilson's Treaty of Versailles and League of Nations were not approved by the U.S. Senate; however, the League provided a model that was improved on later with the United Nations.

Your turn: Use this beginning to draft your own topic sentence that **supports your thesis**
"Looking for American ideals in the ugliness of WWI can be puzzling at first; however,

Now add three phrases (just notes, don't have to be sentences) showing three pieces of evidence backing up your topic sentence.

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Model 3: **compound sentence**: Use a coordinating conjunction to create a compound sentence. Coordinating conjunctions examples to use here are: but, or, yet, for, and, nor, so) Remember to use a comma before the conjunction. Examples: ***Some people find it difficult to program a VCR, but most will succeed if they remember to follow these guidelines. My grandmother likes to help others, so she volunteers at church, at the hospital, and at my school. I enjoy music, but jazz is my favorite.***

WWI “Compound” statement examples:

Ex. 1: WWI arguably did not change the big picture in Europe, but America’s WWI experience brought new opportunities in the workplace for American women and for African-Americans.

Ex. 2: America’s WWI experience arguably did not change the big picture in Europe, but it did erode Constitutional guarantees of freedom of speech in the United States.

Your turn: Use this beginning to draft your own topic sentence that supports your thesis:

“America’s WWI experience may not have saved the world for democracy, but

Now add three phrases (just notes, don’t have to be sentences) showing three pieces of evidence backing up your topic sentence.

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