

Name:  
Date:  
Class:

## TOPIC SENTENCES

**Introduction:** Topic sentences are the introduction to your writing in a paragraph. They should make clear to the reader exactly what you are writing about in that paragraph. Not every topic sentence needs to look the same, though. In fact, adding variety to elements of your writing -- like topic sentences or transitions, for example -- can make your writing much stronger.

### Four Types of Topic Sentences

- 1) **Basic Topic Sentence:** This is a topic sentence in its simplest form. The writer answers the question directly.
  - a) **Example: Brownies are my favorite dessert.**
- 2) **Descriptive Topic Sentence:** This topic sentence includes a short description to the answer to help add some interesting detail to the sentence. The descriptive element is usually a couple adjectives or a phrase that can paint a picture in the reader's mind.
  - a) **Example 1: Brownies, with their crisp chocolate top and sweet cake base, are my favorite dessert.**
  - b) **Example 2: Brownies, warm and fudgy, are my favorite dessert.**
- 3) **Situation/Stance Topic Sentence:** This topic sentence has two clauses: the dependent clause that sets up the situation or topic you are discussing, and the independent clause that gives your position on that topic. **You must start this type of sentence with *Although*, *Even though*, or *While* for it to work.**
  - a) **Example 1: Although there are many delicious desserts, brownies are my favorite.** (Note: The same sentence could be used if you start with *Even though* or *While*.)
- 4) **Topic Sentence With Support:** This topic sentence answers the question *and* gives a preview of your supporting details. It is common to use a *Topic Sentence with Support* as a thesis statement in an essay because it lays out your ideas clearly for the reader.
  - a) **Example 1: Brownies are my favorite dessert because they are delicious, easy to make, and they go perfectly with ice cream.**

## PRACTICE

Before you begin tonight's homework, test out each of the topic sentence options using the space below. Then, choose the one you feel is strongest and write out your paragraph.

**Prompt:** Please write an academic paragraph about the following question. *If you could have any superpower, what would it be and why? In your academic paragraph, please give **two** reasons and for each reason, provide evidence. If you would like extra credit, please list an additional reason with evidence (that would bring your total to 3 reasons).*

Once you have finished practicing topic sentences here, then go to your paragraph document and write your paragraph.

<b>Basic Topic Sentence:</b>	<b>Descriptive Topic Sentence:</b>
<b>Situation/Stance Topic Sentence:</b>	<b>Topic Sentence With Support:</b>

Sentence 1 -  
Sentence 2 -  
Sentence 3 -  
Sentence 4 -  
Sentence 5 -  
Sentence 6 -  
Sentence 7 -  
Sentence 8 -