

# TOPIC SENTENCES

## ANCHOR CHART



### A TOPIC SENTENCE

tells the reader what the paragraph is mostly about.

It sets the focus for the details that follow.

### WHY IT MATTERS



Helps readers understand the main idea.



Keeps your paragraph focused.



Connects ideas and details.



Makes your writing clear and strong.

### WHERE TO PUT IT



Place your topic sentence at the **beginning** of the paragraph.

### GOOD TOPIC SENTENCES...



State the main idea clearly.



Are specific, not too broad.



Relate to your thesis or purpose.



Preview the details that follow.



Match the tone and style.

### EXAMPLES

#### STRONG TOPIC SENTENCE



Regular exercise improves both physical health and mental well-being in many important ways.

##### Why it works:

- Clear main idea
- Specific
- Previews the details

#### NOT SO STRONG



Exercise is good. There are many reasons why people should do it.

##### Why it's weaker:

- Too broad
- Too vague
- Does not preview details

#### TIP



Ask yourself: "Does this sentence tell my reader what this paragraph is mostly about?"