Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Topic sentences are quite similar to thesis statements; both introduce a new idea to the reader. The thesis statement will discuss a detailed description of the entire written work usually appearing at the end of the introductory paragraph and a topic sentence will introduce a paragraph’s purpose and is generally the first sentence of the paragraph.

General

* A paragraph is a series of sentences that are about one topic.
* A paragraph is made up of three parts: a topic sentence, supporting ideas, and a closing.

Topic Sentences

* A topic sentence expresses the main idea of the paragraph.
* The topic sentence answers one or more questions like why, how, or where?
* Every word in a topic sentence is important.
* You must be able to support your topic sentence.
* A topic sentence must be about something you can prove, explain, or show through description.

Outlines

* Outlines help organize ideas for paragraphs.
* An organized outline can look like this:

A. Topic Sentence

B. Supporting Ideas

1.

2.

3.

4.

C. Closing

Supporting Ideas

* Details give writing flavor.
* Unrelated ideas do not explain or support the topic sentence.
* A transition is a link or a connection between sentences. (Examples: first, next, meanwhile, in conclusion)
* Vary the beginnings of sentences

Closing:

* A closing sentence serves as a transitional device from one paragraph to the next
* The final closing sentence of a paper will offer a conclusion