

# The Topic Sentence Reference Sheet

**A topic sentence is the first sentence in a paragraph. It is one statement, not a question, that introduces the topic of the paragraph.**

**It is a complete sentence (subject + predicate) with end punctuation. It clearly introduces the subject of the paragraph (subject+ claim/argument).**

## Cause and Effect (Informative)

topic sentence = subject of paragraph + verb

The major cause of \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_. (singular cause)

The major causes of \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. (plural cause)

*The major causes of poor playing on an instrument are a lack of practice, poor air support, and not watching the conductor.*

*The major causes of being overweight are not getting enough exercise and eating more calories than your body burns.*

*The protagonist was able to solve the conflict by facing the antagonist and winning the fight.*

*Taxation without representation was one cause of the Revolutionary War.*

*The major causes of tectonic plate movement are earthquakes, volcanoes, and mountain building.*

*Mi deporte favorite es futbol porque es rapido y necessita trabajo en equipo.*

## Compare and Contrast (Informative)

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ have important similarities and differences.

Some similarities between \_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_.

Some differences between \_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_.

*Proper and improper fractions have important similarities and differences.*

*The percussion section and string bass section have important similarities.*

*Individual and group practice have important similarities and differences.*

*The work of Keith Haring and Banksy have important similarities and differences.*

*The protagonists of "Zebra" and "Thank You, M'am" both face a person vs. self conflict.*

*Civil wars throughout the world have similarities.*

*Chemical bonds and chemical reactions have important similarities and differences.*

*A quick bread batter and a quick bread dough have important similarities and differences.*

## Order of Importance (Informative)

The most important factors of \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

When \_\_\_\_\_, it is important to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ is important to \_\_\_\_\_.

*When creating an annotated bibliography, it is important to keep a list of sources and explain how the source was used.*

*Two important steps of problem solving are organizing and checking work.*

*Mi familia es muy importante a mi porque son simpatico y interesante.*

*When practicing your instrument, it is important to use both a metronome and a tuner.*

*The most important factors of a good piece of art are research, planning, and dedication.*

*The most important factors of diet are meal planning, fresh foods, and non-processed foods.*

*The most important factors of the water cycle are evaporation, condensation, and precipitation.*

## Chronological/Sequential Order (Informative, Descriptive)

There are \_\_\_\_\_ steps to \_\_\_\_\_.  
The steps to \_ are \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.  
The scientist tested the hypothesis by completing \_\_\_\_\_ steps.  
\_\_\_\_\_ solved his problem by \_\_\_\_\_.  
In order to solve a \_\_\_\_\_, you must follow \_\_\_\_\_ steps.  
The best way to \_\_\_\_\_ is to \_\_\_\_\_.

*There are seven steps to making perfect chocolate chip cookies.*  
*There are four steps one needs to take to play a violin or viola.*  
*There are many steps to creating a successful ceramic piece of artwork.*  
*The three steps to forming good wood joints are planning, marking, and cutting.*  
*The five steps to the scientific method are identify a problem, research, form a hypothesis, test the hypothesis, and develop a conclusion.*  
*There are nine steps to washing your hands correctly.*  
*In order to solve the mystery of why a recipe failed, you must mentally recreate the recipe and consider all steps that were taken to prepare the recipe.*  
*In order for a bill to become a law, several things must happen.*

## Defending a Claim (Persuasive)

The arguments for/against \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.  
The reasons for/against \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.  
\_\_\_\_\_ should/should not be able to \_\_\_\_\_.  
The best way to \_\_\_\_\_ is to \_\_\_\_\_.  
Having a \_\_\_\_\_ has pros and cons.  
When considering \_\_\_\_\_, there are pros and cons.

*The reasons for being physically active are a longer life and mental clarity.*  
*The arguments for being involved in music are higher grades and higher test scores.*  
*Everyone should be able to express themselves through creativity.*  
*Having a fast metabolism has advantages and disadvantages.*  
*The best way to lose weight is to change eating habits.*  
*When considering whether to have a large or small party, there are pros and cons.*  
*If you are in are in the market for a new printer, consider the strengths and weaknesses of the HP1100 series.*  
*The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire was one of the worst workplace disasters in the U.S.*

### Conventions

#### Did you

- capitalize the beginning of the sentence?
- put a punctuation mark at the end?
- write a complete sentence?
- reread what you wrote?
- write what you think you wrote?

### Do Not under ANY circumstances

#### write

- This essay is about...
- I am going to write about...
- My topic is. . .
- It is important to learn because. . .
- Today we learned...

**or you will fail back to kindergarten.**