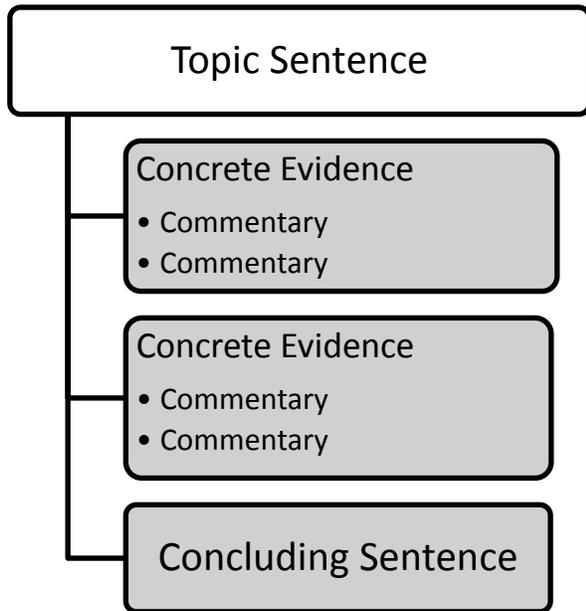


Topic and Concluding Sentences



Topic Sentences

The topic sentence is the first sentence in a paragraph. Its job is to introduce the main ideas of a paragraph.

Concluding Sentences

The concluding sentence is the last sentence in a paragraph. Its job is to summarize the main idea of the paragraph. If the paragraph is part of an essay, the concluding sentence also transitions to the next paragraph.

Tips

Topic Sentence	Concluding Sentence
Think about the examples you'll use in your concrete evidence and include those in your topic sentence.	Restate the big idea of the topic sentence using different words or a different order.
Think about your message. What do you want your reader to know or understand and introduce that idea in one sentence.	Summarize the big idea of the paragraph without repeating the exact same words.
Include the subject and your argument or claim in one complete sentence.	Give the reader something to think about. So what?
Just introduce the paragraph—wait until the concrete evidence to get into specifics.	Transition to the next paragraph if you're writing an essay.

Examples

Topic Sentence	Concluding Sentence
Staying safe while making soap is of the utmost importance since lye can be so dangerous.	Take the extra time to make sure you are safe. A trip to the emergency room is easily avoided by protecting your eyes and skin and by combining the ingredients in the correct order so you can continue on to the fun part of soap making.
From the passage, we can infer that Mrs. Jones has high standards enforced by her caring compassion.	It is clear from Mrs. Jones' interactions with Roger that she has high expectations for behavior, however, those high standards are conveyed through kindness, which makes her lessons even more poignant.