



Creating Effective Topic Sentences Foundation Lesson

Good topic sentences depend on a good thesis sentence. Look back at the thesis statements you wrote in the “Creating Effective Thesis Statements” lesson. Select your strongest literary thesis and write it below.

Your topic sentences must be derived from your thesis statement. What questions are raised by your thesis statement? Your topic sentences must “answer” these questions. Study the example below.

Thesis: *Several key colors carry obvious meaning in Ray Bradbury’s novel Dandelion Wine.*

Topic Sentence: *Shades of yellow and gold exemplify the sunshine of dandelion wine, summer, and youth.*

Topic Sentence: *White, on the other hand, represents the paleness of sickness, the fading of summer, and the coming of death.*

Topic Sentence: *Most vivid and most common of all, green suggests the liveliness of summer and youth and the very life force that in the end will conquer the whiteness of death.*

Write three topic sentences for your thesis statement.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. Check the following and make the necessary changes in your topic sentences.
 - The topic sentences are clearly linked to the thesis statement.
 - The topic sentences promote questions in the reader’s mind.
 - The verb tenses of the topic sentences match the verb tense of the thesis statement.
 - Transitional devices are used to link the topic ideas (and, later, your paragraphs) together.
 - The topic sentences are in the best order for organizing an essay around the thesis statement.
5. Select your strongest topic sentence and develop a paragraph to support it. Be sure to incorporate quotes as evidence. Use your own paper.

Now select your strongest non-literary thesis from the “Creating Effective Thesis Statements” lesson and write it below.

Write three topic sentences for your thesis statement.

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. Check your topic sentences as in number four and revise.
10. Select your strongest topic sentence and develop a paragraph to support it. Again, use your own paper.