

TOPIC SENTENCES

The topic sentence:

- usually is the first sentence in the paragraph
- states the main idea of the paragraph
- anchors the rest of the paragraph
- tells the reader what to expect
- follows directly from the thesis statement and topics 1, 2, and 3

Practice - Identifying a topic sentence, claim, and supporting evidence.

Bacon, Frances. *Back to Year Zero*. Vernon Hills: Weldon Owen Education, Inc., 2005. 5. Print.

In April 1975, the Khmer Rouge communists took Cambodia by force. They wanted to achieve “Year Zero,” which meant that they wanted to get rid of most things related to civilized society. They completely controlled the government and all business. They banned education, religion, and hospital care. They also separated families and made all city people move to the country to work as farmers.

Highlight or underline the topic sentence in the passage above.

The topic sentence makes the claim: _____

The evidence that supports the claim made in the topic sentence is:



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TEACHER APPROVAL: _____

PRACTICE

Organizing information and writing a topic sentence

The following paraphrased information is from the book, Cold War Protecting Democracy.

1. Castro “overthrew” the government in order to take power
2. Cuba became communist
3. Fidel Castro became the leader of Cuba in 1959
4. All businesses and property in Cuba were “nationalized”
5. People in the United States were very mad that Cuba became communist because Cuba is very close to the United States

Steck-, Vaughn. *Cold War Protecting Democracy*. Orlando: Clean Slate Press Limited, 2010. B-7. Print.

Step 1: Write a topic sentence for a paragraph that contains the above information.

Step 2: Use the paraphrased information above to write the rest of the paragraph. Remember, the paraphrased information is not in complete sentences. You need to reword your notes in order for it to make sense in your paragraph. You may choose to not use all of the information in your paragraph.



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