

HB5 Prep Course Writing

Michael Duncan, Associate Professor English

Topic Sentence Exercise

Topic sentences allow our audience to preview the main idea of a paragraph. Think of topic sentences as a mini-thesis for that particular paragraph. It helps forecast what topic will be discussed in that paragraph and how that topic will be handled. This helps the reader understand the point of the paragraph in context with the overall essay.

Directions

The following three paragraphs are lacking topic sentences. Read the paragraph and then in the blank provided create a topic sentence that unifies the paragraph and makes it clear what the main point of the paragraph is for the reader.

Paragraph without topic sentence:

1. Spotify is the biggest streaming service for music available right now. Another prominent streaming service that comes with Apple products, including I-phones, is Apple music. While these are the two biggest music streaming services, there are others out there, including Tidal, YouTube music, and Amazon music.

Topic Sentence:

2. As my mom drove away from the front of the school I felt my anxiety increase. When I walked through the front door the sounds of the students laughing, talking, and rushing around made me nervous. My backpack suddenly felt very heavy as I tried to find my way to my new locker.

Topic Sentence:

3. You will need a heavy jacket and some snow boots. Another useful item would be a GPS tracker, just in case you should stray from trail and get lost. A walking stick will also help you in the deeper parts of the trail. Be sure to bring plenty of water, although there is snow all around you you cannot eat it without lowering your body temperature.
