

TABE
ELA-E
PAXEN

Unit-5
Text Types and Purposes

Lesson-32
Topic Sentence

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ELA-E-32 Topic Sentence

Lesson 32

Topic Sentence

3.W.1.a — High, 3.W.2.a — High

A paragraph is a group of sentences. All of the sentences are about one subject. The **topic sentence** tells the paragraph's main idea. The topic sentence of **opinion writing** should present the writer's opinion on a subject. The topic sentence of **informative writing** should clearly identify the main subject. You often find the topic sentence at the beginning of a paragraph.

Example

It's never too late to learn how to play a musical instrument. Even though many people learn an instrument as children, music teachers have many adult clients. All it takes to learn is practice and patience. Adults are often good music students because they have longer attention spans than children. They know how important it is to do their music homework. Before long, they can read and play music.

(The first sentence is the topic sentence. It tells the main idea of the paragraph. The other sentences give more information about why it's not too late for an adult to learn music.)



Test Example

1. Read the paragraph.

_____. Instead of walking through forests and up mountains, urban hikers hit the sidewalks. They may not see bears, but they will come across a lot of interesting things. While walking, they will have time to look at the sights and talk to people they meet. In a day's worth of urban hiking, someone could walk as many miles as someone in the woods.

Which of these is the best topic sentence for the paragraph?

- A. It is safe to hike in the city.
- B. Exercise of all kinds is important for people.
- C. Urban hiking is an activity that involves walking long distances in the city.
- D. Walking is a better way of exploring urban areas than driving.

C. This option states the main idea.

Hint

To write a topic sentence, state what the paragraph is about.

ELA-E-32 Topic Sentence

Practice

1 Read the paragraph.

_____ As home televisions have become bigger, people spend more time watching movies at home. At home, they can sit on their comfortable furniture and eat what they want. They also don't have to listen to other people talking or using their phones. Watching movies at home also saves people money.

Which of these is the best topic sentence for the paragraph?

- A. Every year, TV pictures get better and better.
- B. People don't go to movie theaters as much as they used to.
- C. Movie theaters need to have better rules about cell phones.
- D. Most movies that come out these days are about the same things.

2 Read the paragraph.

_____ Many people in the U.S. play in soccer leagues when they are children, but most don't stay big fans of the sport. Sports like basketball and baseball have a lot of breaks. TV networks can show commercials during those breaks. Soccer doesn't have breaks like that, so networks in the U.S. don't want to show it as much. People also spend a lot of time and money supporting American football, basketball, baseball, and hockey teams. That doesn't leave much time and money for going to soccer games.

Which of these is the best topic sentence for the paragraph?

- A. My favorite sport to watch is soccer.
- B. Most people in the world call soccer *football*.
- C. Soccer is not as popular as other sports in the U.S. for several reasons.
- D. American football is the most popular sport in the U.S.

3 Read the paragraph.

_____ In the past, people would memorize phone numbers of friends and family. Today, people just say or click on a name to call someone. Not having phone numbers memorized can be a problem. For example, if someone loses a phone or forgets it at home, it could be difficult to contact someone during an emergency.

Which of these is the best topic sentence for the paragraph?

- A. Most people have cell phones instead of landlines.
- B. Texting is more convenient than talking on the phone.
- C. It's almost impossible to find pay phones in many places.
- D. Because of cell phones, people don't memorize phone numbers anymore.

4 Read the paragraph.

_____ It can be hard to resist buying lunch at a restaurant. After all, the food smells so good, and someone else did the work to make it. But, you pay a lot more for the food. For a lot less money, you could make lunch at home. You would also know exactly what you're eating. Fast food can have a lot of calories and fat. Instead, you can make healthy lunches.

Which of these is the best topic sentence for the paragraph?

- A. Bringing your lunch to work can save you money and calories.
- B. There are a lot of great lunch recipes online if you need ideas.
- C. Taking a break for lunch during the workday is good for your brain.
- D. More businesses should have cafeterias for their workers.

ELA-E-32 Topic Sentence

Practice 32 Topic Sentence

3.W.1.a – High, 3.W.2.a – High

1 Read the paragraph.

_____ When you plan meals, you can save money. You won't go into the grocery store and buy things you don't need. You also save time. Instead of thinking about what to make each night, you plan out a week's worth of dinners. Additionally, you will waste less food. Since you will only buy what you need for the meals and snacks you plan, you will not have as much extra food around.

Which of these is the best topic sentence for the paragraph?

- A. You can save dollars by planning lunch.
- B. Meal planning has many benefits.
- C. Buy a meal service to take care of meal planning.
- D. When you plan meals, you can lose weight.

2 Read the paragraph.

_____ How can we choose good leaders for our country if everyone does not vote? In 2016, people in the United States could vote to choose a president. About 61 percent of the people who could vote did vote. The numbers were about the same in 2008 and 2012. About 39 percent of those who could have voted did not vote. I believe that it is our duty to vote. I hope that you agree. In the future, why not vote?

Which of these is the best topic sentence for the paragraph?

- A. In my opinion, everyone who is eligible to vote should vote.
- B. If voting was important, everyone would do it.
- C. Voting only matters every four years.
- D. Voting numbers are unreliable.

3 Read the paragraph.

_____ The difference between print books and e-books is not huge. For fiction, it does not matter whether readers use print books or e-books. This is not the case for nonfiction. For nonfiction, studies show advantages to reading print books. Why? One expert found that readers of e-books believed that they understood more than they actually did. Readers of print books did not have this issue.

Which of these is the best topic sentence for the paragraph?

- A. Why are e-books so popular?
- B. What should you look for when buying an e-book reader?
- C. What are the differences between reading print books and e-books?
- D. What is the difference between fiction and nonfiction?

4 Read the paragraph.

_____ Now, it is true that some studies that show that breakfast is important were actually done by cereal companies. However, anyone can tell that you have more energy if you eat in the morning. Eating breakfast can even improve your mood. That is why I think you should eat breakfast.

Which of these is the best topic sentence for the paragraph?

- A. Breakfast is the only meal you need to eat.
- B. I believe that you should never skip breakfast.
- C. Cereal companies exaggerated the importance of breakfast.
- D. I believe a good breakfast should include fresh fruit.

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5 Read the paragraph.

_____ You might find it frustrating not to be able to write in cursive, but it is not too late. Cursive writing used to be taught in schools when children were seven or eight years old. But even if you missed that in school, you can find ways to teach yourself. Just find cursive handwriting exercises online and print them out. Or you could buy a workbook at a bookstore. The books might be for kids, but an adult can still use them to learn!

Which of these is the best topic sentence for the paragraph?

- A. Buy a book to learn cursive writing.
- B. You can learn to write cursive as an adult.
- C. Children should be taught cursive writing in elementary school.
- D. Learning to type is more important than learning to write in cursive.

6 Read the paragraph.

_____ Although the flu shot does not prevent every case of the flu, it still helps people. By getting flu shots, we are helping those who might get very ill if they get the flu. That includes seniors, infants, and others who might be too sick to get the vaccine. How are we helping? If most people get the vaccine, then the flu may not spread as widely. I believe we are obliged to do our part for everyone's health.

Which of these is the best topic sentence for the paragraph?

- A. Vaccinations in general have not proven to be effective.
- B. A flu vaccine is sure to prevent you from getting the flu.
- C. I strongly believe that getting a flu shot is a waste of time.
- D. I strongly believe that everyone who can should get a flu shot every year.

7 Read the paragraph.

_____ Here are a few simple ways to save energy. First of all, check your lamps and overhead lighting. Are you using LED lightbulbs instead of incandescent bulbs? You should be. Next, check electronics that you may not be using anymore, such as an old video console. Unplug those if you have not already. You should also unplug phone chargers when they are not in use. One last thing you can do—use a smart thermostat. That way, you can program your home so that you are not using so much air conditioning or heat when no one is there.

Which of these is the best topic sentence for the paragraph?

- A. There are many ways to save energy at home.
- B. Smart thermostats should be available in every home.
- C. Incandescent bulbs are pretty but wasteful.
- D. It is time to get rid of old electronic equipment.

8 Read the paragraph.

_____ I believe owning a pet is one of the best things you can do for your own happiness. Plus, you are taking care of an animal that might otherwise have no one to care for it. Many pets at shelters are already house-trained. Some might have had other training. It is much better to adopt a pet than it is to buy a pet from a pet store.

Which of these is the best topic sentence for the paragraph?

- A. Train your pet!
- B. Get exercise with a dog!
- C. Buy a pet from a pet store!
- D. Adopt a pet!

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Lesson 32

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(3.W.1.a, 3.W.2.a)

1. B. This option states the main idea.
2. C. This option states the main idea.
3. D. This option states the main idea.
4. A. This option states the main idea.

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Practice 32

Topic Sentence

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(3.W.1.a, 3.W.2.a)

1. B. This option states the main idea. The paragraph is about the benefits of meal planning.
2. A. This option states the main idea. The paragraph explains why the author feels everyone should vote.
3. C. This option states the main idea. The paragraph is about how reading comprehension can vary when people read print books and e-books.
4. B. This option states the main idea. The paragraph explains why the author feels people should eat breakfast.
5. B. This option states the main idea. The paragraph is about learning cursive as an adult.
6. D. This option states the main idea. The paragraph explains why the author feels people should get a flu shot if they can.
7. A. This option states the main idea. The paragraph lists things you can do to save energy.
8. D. This option states the main idea. The paragraph is about the benefits of adopting a pet.