

# Topic Sentences

There are many types of topic sentences.

## Occasion/Position Statements

Occasion = Reason for writing

Position = What you plan to prove or explain

### Starter Words

After	Before	Since	Where
Although	Even though	Unless	Whenever
As	If	Until	While

1. **When** students write paragraphs, they must start with strong topic sentences.
2. **Before** I write paragraphs or reports, I always take time to organize my ideas.

## Power (Number) Statements

### Number Words

two	several	some
three	a number of	a few
four	a couple	many

1. The third graders learned **several** ways to jump rope.
2. Last year I wrote **three** interesting reports about the history of Mexico.

## And, But, and Or Statements

### Conjunctions

and	yet	so
nor	but	or

1. To stay healthy, we need to eat the right foods, **so** we should make smart decisions about the snacks we choose.
2. The girls were determined to win the game, **but** they knew it would not be easy.

## Action Verb Statements

### Action Verbs

created  
built  
believed

enjoyed  
painted  
devoured

discovered  
generated  
surprised

1. My baby sister **makes** me laugh.
2. Our class **enjoyed** our trip to the art museum.

## Compare/Contrast Statements

### Compare/ Contrast Words

different  
in common  
differences

the same  
better  
similar

unlike  
alike  
worse

1. **The two books about kangaroos are similar.**
2. **My cousins look alike, but they have many differences.**

## Where or When + What's Happening Statements

### Where

1. In science class
2. Under our patio roof

### + What's Happening

- we read about life on a spaceship.  
some birds have built their nests.

### When

1. Yesterday
2. After school

### + What's Happening

- I wrote a great story.  
I like to help my father at his store.



Tell your reader what you want to prove or explain.