WRITING

Topic sentences.

A) Tick the options about what a topic sentence is.

A topic sentence is:

- ☐ at or near the start of the paragraph.
- ☐ at the end of the paragraph.
- ☐ the main idea of the paragraph.
- ☐ a small detail from the paragraph.
- ☐ one or two words.
- ☐ a complete sentence.

The Parts of a Topic Sentence

A topic sentence has two parts:

- a **topic**—what the paragraph is about, and
- a **controlling idea**—what the writer is going to focus on in the paragraph.

TOPIC | CONTROLLING IDEA
David Freeman is a good father.

Either the topic or the controlling idea can come first in a topic sentence. Compare these two topic sentences:

TOPIC | CONTROLLING IDEA
Scuba diving requires careful preparation.

CONTROLLING IDEA | TOPIC
You must prepare carefully before going scuba diving.

B) Look at the next topic sentences. Write the *topic* and the *controlling idea*.

TOPIC SENTENCES	TOPIC	CONTROLLING IDEA
1. My sister and I have different personalities.		
2. The best time to travel in my country is summer.		
3. My city is a friendly place to visit.		
4. The most popular sport in Colombia is soccer.		

LIVEWORKSHEETS

C) Look at the next topic sentence. Choose the best topic sentence and explain why the sentence is weak. Write the number for the explanation according to the ideas below.

1. **This is the best topic sentence.**
2. It's too broad
3. It's too narrow or specific.
4. There is no strong opinion or idea.
5. There is more than one idea.

Example:

a. Practicing sports in the school helps you get good grades. [1]

b. We practice sports in the school. [4]

a. There are around 1 billion cars in the world today. [ ]

b. Cars have dangerous gases that contaminate the air. [ ]

a. My city has too much traffic jams. [ ]

b. My city has many problems. [ ]

a. Many people love studying English, and also they love French. [ ]

b. Many students are studying English as a foreign language. [ ]

a. My teacher is 21 years old. [ ]

b. Young teachers are dynamics and fun in my school. [ ]