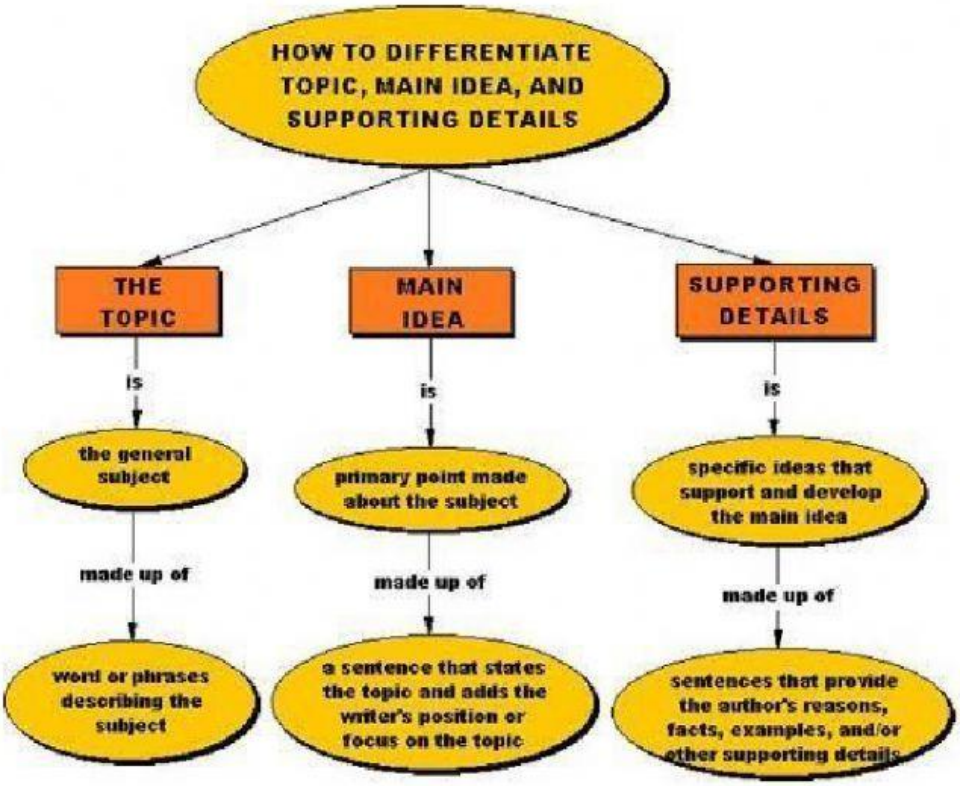
TEXT COMPONENTS



TOPIC

i. After reading each of the following paragraphs, select the choice that best represents the topic of the paragraph.

1. You've probably heard that older men die before older women virtually everywhere in the world. In the United States, women are expected to live an average of 80.4 years, while men live only 75.2 years. Sociologists attribute many factors to this trend. For example, men have higher testosterone levels than women, which may make men more likely to abuse alcohol and tobacco, drive aggressively, and engage in other life-threatening behaviors. Men also choose riskier types of work and become involved in wartime aggression, which are connected to men's decreased life expectancy. Studies also show that women are less likely to experience life-threatening illnesses and health problems than men are.

–Carl, Think Sociology, p. 211

a. women's health

b. men and risky behaviors

c. testosterone and age

d. men's life expectancy

2. Many people look back to the 1950s as the golden age of the traditional family, but was it really? Teenage pregnancy rates were higher in the 1950s than they are today, although a higher proportion of teenage mothers were married (primarily due to "shotgun weddings," a colloquialism that developed from the idea that many fathers of pregnant girls had to force, possibly with a weapon, a man to marry his daughter once she became pregnant). Many families were unable to survive the traumas of war and its aftermath, and the divorce rate rose from one in six in 1940 to one in four marriages in 1946. Although many families prospered in the years following World War II, many others suffered from economic hardship. In 1948, Newsweek reported that most of the 27 million schoolchildren in the United States were badly in need of medical or dental care, while more than 900 thousand children were malnourished.

—Kunz, THINK Marriages & Families, p. 8

a. teenage pregnancy rates
b. the effect of war on divorce
c. family problems in the 1950s
d. golden age

3. In the past few years, social networking sites such as MySpace, Facebook, and Twitter have become hugely popular across all ages. Despite the opinions of some that young people are in danger of turning into crouching androids glued to their computers, research shows that the majority of friendships are still maintained offline. Offline friendships are characterized by more interdependence, depth, understanding, and commitment, but online friendships can gain some of these qualities with time. Most online friends tend to be rather cautious about disclosing personal information. However, this does not apply to people with a negative view of themselves and others; they instead seem to share more information, possibly in an attempt to become more self-confident in their interactions. Interestingly, even in online friendships people seem to gain more satisfaction when befriending people of a similar age and place of residence.

—Kunz, THINK Marriages & Families, p. 82

a. offline vs. online friendships
b. technology and self-image
c. personal information sharing online
d. satisfaction in online friendships

4. A century ago politicians used to say, "Vote early and often." Cases such as West Virginia's 159,000 votes being cast by 147,000 eligible voters in 1888 were not that unusual. Largely to prevent corruption associated with stuffing ballot boxes, states adopted voter registration laws around the turn of the century, which require individuals to first place their name on an electoral roll in order to be allowed to vote. Although these laws have made it more difficult to vote more than once, they have also discouraged some people from voting at all. Voter registration requirements in the United States are, in part, to blame for why Americans are significantly less likely to go to the polls than citizens of other democratic nations.

—Edwards et al., Government in America, p. 313

a. voter turnout
b. voter registration
c. voter eligibility
d. voter fraud

5. Compared with the technical resources of a theater of today, those of a London public theater in the time of Queen Elizabeth I seem hopelessly limited. Plays had to be performed by daylight, and scenery had to be kept simple: a table, a chair, a throne, perhaps an artificial tree or two to suggest a forest. But these limitations were, in a sense, advantages. What the theater of today can spell out for us realistically, with massive scenery and electric lighting, Elizabethan playgoers had to imagine and the playwright had to make vivid for them by means of language. Not having a lighting technician to work a panel, -Shakespeare had to indicate the dawn by having Horatio, in Hamlet, say in a speech rich in metaphor and descriptive detail: But look, the morn in russet mantle clad Walks o'er the dew of yon high eastward hill.

–Kennedy and Gioia, Literature, p. 1243

a. impact of technological limitations on Elizabethan theater
b. benefits of modern technology in theater performances
c. effects of Shakespeare's writing style
d. the use of language to make ideas vivid

TOPIC SENTENCE

ii. Select the sentence (all the parts of the sentence) that contains the topic sentence in each of the following paragraphs.

1. The United States has a severe fire problem that if not addressed, will continue to worsen drastically. Fire statistics show that our nation, one of the richest and most technologically sophisticated countries in the world, lags behind its peer nations in fire security. Nationally, there are millions of fires, thousands of deaths, tens of thousands of injuries, and billions of dollars lost each year—figures which far exceed comparable statistics for other industrialized countries. In 2001, for example, the direct value of property destroyed in fires was $11 billion ($44 billion if the World Trade Center loss is included). More recently in 2004, direct property losses from fires were estimated at over $9.8 billion.

–Loyd and Richardson, Fundamentals of Fire and Emergency Services, p. 12

2. The star system has been the backbone of the American film industry since the mid 1910s. Stars are the creation of the public, its reigning favorites. Their influence in the fields of fashion, values, and public behavior has been enormous. "The social history of a nation can be written in terms of its film stars," Raymond Durgnat has observed. Stars confer instant consequence to any film they appear in. Their fees have staggered the public. In the 1920s, Mary Pickford and Charles Chaplin were the two highest paid employees in the world. Contemporary stars such as Julia Roberts and Tom Cruise command salaries of many millions per film, so popular are these box-office giants. Some stars had careers that spanned five decades: Bette Davis and John Wayne, to name just two.

– Giannetti, Understanding Movies, p. 251

3. For decades, we have looked at our steadily increasing life expectancy rates and proudly proclaimed that Americans' health has never been better. Recently, however, health organizations and international groups have attempted to quantify the number of years a person lives with a disability or illness, compared with the number of healthy years. The World Health Organization summarizes this concept as healthy life expectancy. Simply stated, healthy life expectancy refers to the number of years a newborn can expect to live in full health, based on current rates of illness and mortality and also on the quality of their lives. For example, if we could delay the onset of diabetes so that a person didn't develop the disease until he or she was 60 years old, rather than developing it at 30, there would be a dramatic increase in this individual's healthy life expectancy.

–Donatelle, Health: The Basics, p. 6

4. Are you "twittered out"? Is all that texting causing your thumbs to seize up in protest? If so, you're not alone. Like millions of others, you may find that all of the pressure for contact is more than enough stress for you! Known as technostress, the bombardment is defined as stress created by a dependence on technology and the constant state of being plugged in or wirelessly connected, which can include a perceived obligation to respond, chat, or tweet.

–Donatelle, Health: The Basics, p.66

5. In the past, exposure to liability made many doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals reluctant to stop and render aid to victims in emergency situations, such as highway accidents. Almost all states have enacted a Good Samaritan law that relieves medical professionals from liability for injury caused by their ordinary negligence in such circumstances. Good Samaritan laws protect medical professionals only from liability for their ordinary negligence, not for injuries caused by their gross negligence or reckless or intentional conduct. Most Good Samaritan laws protect licensed doctors and nurses and laypersons who have been certified in CPR. Good Samaritan statutes generally do not protect laypersons who are not trained in CPR—that is, they are liable for injuries caused by their ordinary negligence in rendering aid.

– Goldman and Cheeseman, Paralegal Professional, p. 459

6. A focus group is a small group, usually consisting of about seven to ten people who are brought together to discuss a subject of interest to the researcher. Focus groups are commonly used today in business and politics; that flashy slogan you heard for a political campaign or a new toothpaste was almost certainly tested in a focus group to gauge people's reactions. Social researchers may use a focus group to help design questions or instruments for quantitative research or to study the interactions among group members on a particular subject. In most cases, researchers ask predetermined questions, but the discussion is unstructured. Focus groups are a relatively cheap method of research and can be completed quickly. They also allow for the flexible discussions and answers that are desirable in qualitative research

–Kunz, THINK Marriages & Families, p.36

7. In the developing world 1.1 billion people still lack access to safe drinking water, 2.6 billion do not have access to adequate sanitation services, and more than 1.6 million deaths each year are traced to waterborne diseases (mostly in children under five). All too often in developing countries, water is costly or inaccessible to the poorest in society, while the wealthy have it piped into their homes. In addition, because of the infrastructure that is used to control water, whole seas are being lost, rivers are running dry, millions of people have been displaced to make room for reservoirs, groundwater aquifers are being pumped down, and disputes over water have raised tensions from local to international levels. Fresh water is a limiting resource in many parts of the world and is certain to become even more so as the 21st century unfolds.

–Wright and Boorse, Environmental Science, p. 247

8. In colonial days, huge flocks of snowy egrets inhabited the coastal wetlands and marshes of the southeastern United States. In the 1800s, when fashion dictated fancy hats adorned with feathers, egrets and other birds were hunted for their plumage. By the late 1800s, egrets were almost extinct. In 1886, the newly formed National Audubon Society began a press campaign to shame "feather wearers" and end the practice. The campaign caught on, and gradually, attitudes changed; new laws followed. Government policies that protect animals from overharvesting are essential to keep species from the brink of extinction. Even when cultural standards change due to the efforts of individual groups (such as the National Audubon Society), laws and policy measures must follow to ensure that endangered populations remain protected. Since the 1800s, several important laws have been passed to protect a wide variety of species.

–Wright and Boorse, Environmental Science: Toward a Sustainable Future, p. 150

MAIN IDEA

iii. Read the paragraphs and choose the option that contains the the Main Idea.

9. For young children, losing privileges for short amounts of time can be very effective. One way for this to happen is by using what is called "Time-Out." Time-Out means time away from all those fun things in a child's life. It is a way of disciplining your child without raising your hand or your voice. Basically, Time-Out involves having your child sit in one place for a certain amount of time. You can easily see that most kids wouldn't like Time-Out because they would rather be doing fun things.

What is the **main idea** of the text?

a. Time-Out is not an effective way of disciplining children.
b. Time-Out is an effective way of disciplining children.
c. Spanking is the least effective way of disciplining children.
d. Time-Out means sitting in one place for a certain amount of time.

10. People act the way they are dressed. Those wearing beach clothes often put their feet on the desk, slouch in their chair, and look lazy. Those who look professional and businesslike work better and are better received by their colleagues.

What is the **main idea** of this text?

a. People act the way they are dressed
b. Dressing nice will help you get a better job
c. Men should always wear ties to work
d. People who wear beach clothes to work are lazy

11. One technique to manage stress is self-hypnosis. Another relaxation technique is the "relaxation response." In this technique, one learns how to quiet the body and mind. Still another way to manage stress is progressive muscular relaxation. This is a procedure in which muscles are contracted and relaxed systematically. Other techniques include yoga, quieting, and diaphragmatic breathing.

What is the **main idea** of this paragraph?
a. The techniques of improving stress
b. How to relieve stress
c. There are a number of stress management techniques
d. Steps to maintain healthy body

12. Smoking has been proven dangerous to people's health, yet many continue to smoke for various reasons. For young people, smoking often represents maturity and individuality. Many smoke as a way to reduce tension. In addition, the regular smoker becomes addicted psychologically and physically to the nicotine in cigarettes.

What is the **main idea** of this paragraph?
a. Smoking has been proven dangerous to people's health in various ways.
b. Regular smokers become addicted to nicotine.
c. Although smoking is dangerous, people continue doing it for various reasons.
d. Nicotine is what smokers become addicted to, both psychologically and physically.

13. Students compete in robot sumo contests. They learn how to build their own robots. They compete against their classmates and students from other schools. To win, students must be creative. They must have a good plan for defeating other robots.

What is the **main idea** of this paragraph?
a. Students need a good plan for defeating other robots.
b. Students compete against their classmates and students from other schools.
c. Students compete in robot sumo contests.
d. Students must be creative to win.

14. Robots are being used in sumo wrestling contests. Sumo wrestling is a sport that started in Japan. It takes place in a ring. Two players try to score points by holding each other down or pushing each other out of the ring. Robot sumo uses robots instead of humans. The robot that scores the most points wins.

What is the **main idea** of this paragraph?
a. Robots are being used in sumo wrestling contests.
b. Sumo wrestling takes place in a ring.
c. The robot that scores the most points wins.
d. Sumo wrestling is a sport that started in Japan.

SUPPORTING DETAILS

iv. Read the text and identify three supporting details in each paragraph. Select the numbers of the sentences.

15.

1 Being a celebrity is often difficult. 2 First of all, celebrities have to look almost perfect all the time. 3 There's always a photographer ready to take an unflattering picture of a famous person looking dumpy in old clothes. 4 Celebrities also sacrifice their private lives. 5 Their personal struggles, divorces, or family tragedies all end up as front-page news. 6 Last, and most frightening of all, celebrities are in constant danger of the wrong kind of attention. 7 Threatening letters and even physical attacks from crazy fans are things a celebrity must contend with.

Supporting details: ____ , _____ , _____.

16.

1 People lie for different reasons. 2 One common reason is to avoid hurting someone's feelings. 3 For example, a friend might ask, "Do you like my new haircut?" 4 If you think it's ugly, you might still answer, "Yes." 5 Another common reason for lying is to avoid a fight. 6 Say a friend angers you and then asks, "Are you upset with me?" 7 You might answer, "No," to avoid an argument. 8 People also lie so that they'll fit in, as when you listen to a boring person and politely say, "That's interesting." 9 In addition, people lie to avoid spending more time with someone. 10 For instance, you might lie, "I have to go now."

Supporting details: ____ , _____ , _____.

17.

1 You don't have to scare your family with statistics about heart attacks. 2 There are several positive ways to encourage your family to exercise more often. 3 To begin with, get them to exercise more often by emphasizing how good they'll feel and how much better they'll look if they work out on a regular basis. 4 A second method you can use is to set an example. 5 If they see you walking to stores rather than driving, they might be encouraged to do likewise. 6 Finally, make exercise a family activity. 7 Suggest that the whole family go hiking or camping together, take up early morning jogging, or join the Y at the group rate.

Supporting details: ____ , _____ , _____.

18.

1 Serious depression, as opposed to the momentary one we all feel at times, has definite warning signs. 2 One symptom of depression is a change in sleep patterns—either sleeplessness or sleeping too much. 3 In addition, abnormal eating patterns may develop, either eating too much or loss of appetite. 4 A third sign is trouble in thinking or concentrating—even to the point of finding it difficult to read a magazine or newspaper. 5 And last of all, a general feeling of hopelessness may signal depression. 6 People feel indifferent to their families and jobs and may begin to think that life is not worth living.

Supporting details: ____ , _____ , _____.

19.

1 Several factors can interfere with having a good memory. 2 For one thing, there can be a lack of motivation. 3 Without a real desire to learn or remember something, you probably won't. 4 Also a factor is a lack of practice. 5 To stay sharp, memory skills, like any other skill, must be used on a regular basis. 6 Yet another factor that can hurt memory is self-doubt. 7 If you're convinced you won't remember something, you probably won't. 8 In addition, distraction can interfere with memory. 9 If you're distracted by a television or by conversation nearby, try to find a quiet environment before trying to commit something to memory. 9 Nonetheless, having a good memory is overrated nowadays.

Supporting details: ____ , _____ , _____.