

★ MINI LESSON: Topic Sentences & Controlling Ideas

◆ What is a Topic Sentence?

It is the main sentence in a paragraph that tells what the paragraph is mostly about.

◆ What is a Controlling Idea?

It tells what the writer wants to say about the topic. It gives direction or limits to the topic.

Example:

Topic sentence: "Volunteering abroad can be a life-changing experience for young people."

✓ Topic = Volunteering abroad

✓ Controlling idea = can be a life-changing experience

— PRACTICE: 1. Choose the correct Topic Sentence + Controlling Idea

Each group below contains four sentences. Choose the one that is a strong topic sentence with a clear controlling idea.

✓ Group 1:

- A. People eat many types of food in different countries.
- B. Mexican food is tasty.
- C. Mexican food is popular around the world because of its rich flavors and cultural traditions.
- D. I like tacos and burritos.

✓ Group 2:

- A. Online learning is a modern way to get an education.
- B. Online learning helps students with busy schedules get a flexible education.
- C. Online classes can be difficult.
- D. Some people study online because they have no time.

✓ Group 3:

- A. Traveling can be fun.
- B. Traveling to new countries opens your mind and helps you learn about new cultures.
- C. I traveled to Europe last summer.
- D. Airplane tickets are expensive these days.

2: Match the Topic with the Correct Controlling Idea

Match the topic on the left with the best controlling idea on the right. Write the letter of the controlling idea next to each topic.

Topic

- 1. Learning a second language
- 2. Playing sports regularly
- 3. Going to a music concert

Controlling Idea

- a. helps the body stay in good shape
- b. is fun and helps people make new friends
- c. improves memory and helps with job opportunities.

3: Choose the Best Topic Sentence

Each group below has 3 sentences. Choose the best topic sentence that includes a clear topic and controlling idea.

— Group A:

- A. I love reading books.
- B. Reading every day helps improve vocabulary and thinking skills.
- C. Books are fun.

— Group B:

- A. Dogs are friendly animals.
- B. Dogs make great pets because they are loyal and protective.
- C. I have a dog at home.

— Group C:

- A. Fast food is bad.
- B. Eating fast food too often can lead to health problems like obesity.
- C. My favorite fast food is pizza.

4: Identify the Best Topic Sentence

◆ Topic : Coffee

Notes: People drink coffee to feel more awake and focused.

Drinking too much can cause sleep problems and anxiety.

- Choose the best topic sentence:

- A. Many people love coffee.
- B. Coffee has both benefits and drawbacks for people's focus and health.
- C. Some people can't sleep because they drink coffee at night.
- D. Drinking coffee is a morning habit for many people.