

Name:

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.

1. Giant Pandas are unique animals.

What is the topic?

Controlling Idea: What does it tell you about the topic?

2. Lucy Blaylock and Tori Holmes make blankets to comfort people through difficult times.

What is the topic?

Controlling Idea: What does it tell you about the topic?

3. Company and Barney (two golden retriever dogs) are responsible for comforting and consoling young patients at the hospital.

What is the topic?

Controlling Idea: What does it tell you about the topic?

4. Four of these sentences are supporting details and one of them is the topic sentence. Which one is it?

1. With help, Company puts on a red bandanna.
2. Barney slips on a blue version that matches his vest.
3. Five days a week, Barney and Company get ready for work at Children's National Hospital in Washington, D.C.
4. Badges dangle from their necks.
5. The IDs include their name, photo and job title: facility dog