

Week 5

Hooks & Topic Sentences in English Writing



TV Broadcast News Team Come & razzle-dazzle us



Review of Articles

a - an - the - some - any

A *cat* *An* *ocean* *An* *orange bike*

Have a look at the following examples:

An hour (the h is silent; so, **hour** starts with a vowel sound.)

BUT: *A hot dog* (The h is not mute here.)

A university student ("University" does not begin with a vowel sound, but, with a consonant sound. It is equivalent to saying **you** in English.)

An unusual situation (The letter u has a vowel sound here.)

The plural of **a** or **an** is **some**:

Some cats

Some oceans

Some is also used with uncountable nouns: **some** milk.

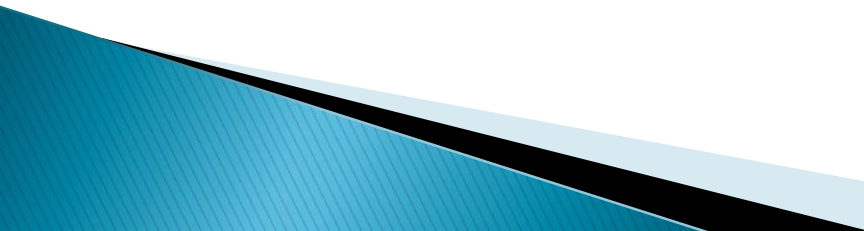
In **questions** and in **negatives** sentences, **any** is used instead of **some**:

*There wasn't **any** milk. But there was some rice.
Has she sent you **any** photos?*



- ▶ However, when we expect a **positive reply** or when we are **offering or asking** for something, we use **some** instead of **any**:
- ▶ *Would you like **some** coffee?*
- ▶ *Is there **some** ham in the fridge, mom? I'm very hungry.*

(The speaker wants to eat some ham, so he expects that his mother will say "yes".)



- ▶ **The** is used to refer to things previously mentioned or to refer to something unique:

A man and a woman were walking along the path. The man was wearing a red jumper and the woman, a pink jacket.

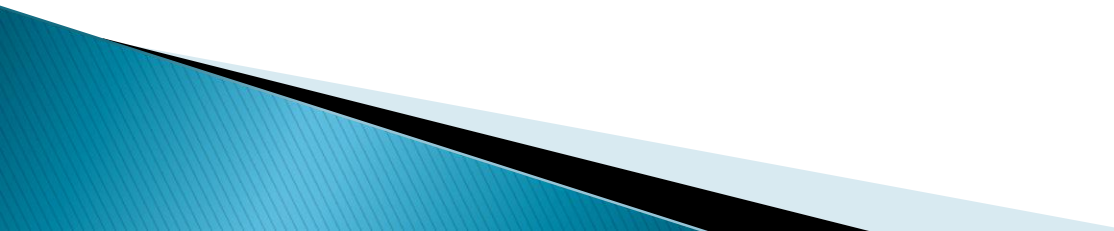
>>> I would like to go to the moon.<<<

- ▶ **Some**, **any** and **the** are **omitted** when the names express a general idea:

- ▶ *I love bananas.*

- ▶ *Milk is very good for children.*

A-An-The-Some-Any-0 Exercises

1. I need _____ volunteer to sweep the sitting room and the kitchen.
 2. Let's buy _____ grapes for the party.
 3. May I have _____ water, please?
 4. There aren't _____ strawberries.
 5. It was _____ easy exam. Everybody passed it.
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6. There is ___ lady at the door who asks for you.

7. We don't have _____ coke.

8. She hasn't got _____ friends

9. "Are there _____ trees?"

"No, there aren't _____ (trees). It's a desert place."

10. _____ elephants never forget.

11. _____ onions aren't in _____ cellar.
They are in _____ kitchen.

12. _____ whales and _____ elephants are
_____ biggest mammals on earth.

13. There were _____ books and _____
comics. _____ books were broken, but _____
comics weren't.

14. "Could you give me _____ sweets, granny?"
"Of course, love!"

15. I've lost _____ crayons I bought yesterday.

16. She hates _____ garlic, but I love it.

17. We would like to spend _____ week in Barcelona.

18. _____ pollution is destroying _____ earth.

19. There isn't _____ apple juice left. Let's buy _____ (apple juice).

20. "Did they drink _____ wine?"
"No, they didn't."



Weak & Strong Verbs

Regular verbs are sometimes called WEAK verbs.

I save money. I saved money. I have saved money.

Irregular or STRONG verbs do not follow this pattern:

they wear, they wore, they have worn

he quit, he quit, he has quit

These irregular verbs can be called **Troublesome Verbs**.

I will send a list of 150 such verbs with explanation & illustration to you in a class email.

Print it out for future study & reference.

Objective vs. Subjective

Objective judgment: >> expressing or dealing with facts or conditions as perceived without distortion by personal feelings, prejudices, or interpretations

EX: winner of a 200m race, mathematics, grammar

VS


Subjective judgment: >> modified or affected by personal views, experience, or background;
>> identified by means of one's perception of one's own states and processes *Ex: gymnastics, diving, poetry, art, topic sentences, hooks,*

Getting Started

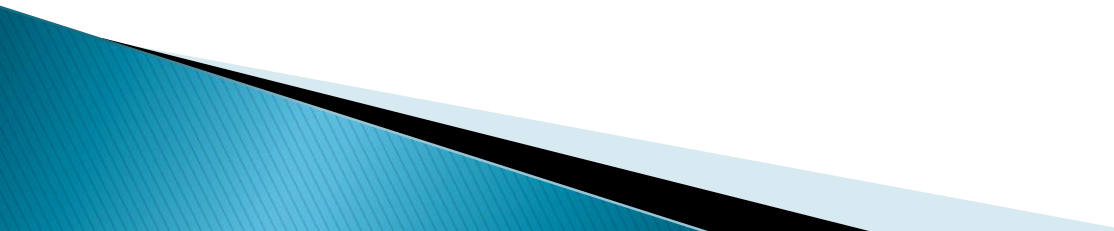
Writing the main Topic Sentence for an Essay

The topic sentence is the most important sentence of a paragraph. It states the main idea and introduces the reader to the topic.

It may also contain a “controlling idea” which tells your attitude or opinion about the topic.



Examples

- ▶ Falling off my bike was a frightening experience.
 - ▶ The world admired President Lincoln because he was so honest and had a good sense of humor.
 - ▶ The first steps in learning Photo Shop are the hardest of the whole process.
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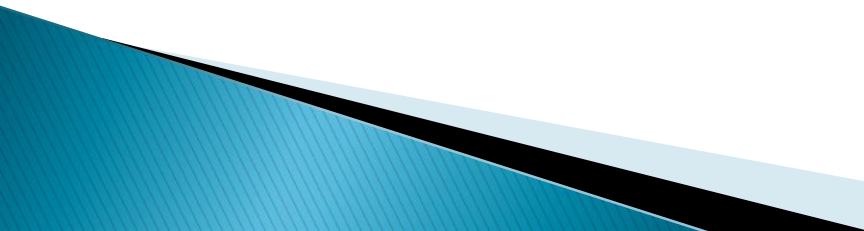
Choose the best topic sentence for each group of supporting sentences.

Example:

_____b_____. I usually go skiing every weekend in the winter even though it is expensive. I love the feeling of flying down a mountain. The views are beautiful from the top of a mountain and along the trails. Even the danger of falling and getting hurt can't keep me away from the slopes on a winter day.

- a) Skiing is expensive.
- b) Skiing is my favorite sport.
- c) Skiing is dangerous.

- ▶ 1.) _____ . North Americans send cards for many occasions. They send cards to family and friends on birthdays and holidays. They also send thank-you cards, get well cards, graduation cards, and congratulation cards. It is very common to buy cards in stores and send them through the mail, but turning on the computer and sending cards over the Internet is also popular.

 - ▶ a) Sending cards is very popular in North America.
 - ▶ b) Birthday cards are the most popular kind of card.
 - ▶ c) It is important to send thank-you cards.
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▶ 2.) ----- . I enjoy summer sports like water skiing and baseball. The weather is usually sunny and hot, so I can go to the beach almost every day. Gardening is my hobby and I spend many summer days working in my garden. Unfortunately, the days pass too quickly in summer.

- a) I like to garden in summer.
- b) Summer is my favorite season.
- c) Summer is too short.

▶ 3.) _____ . First of all, we need money to repair old roads and build new roads. We also need more to pay teachers' salaries and to pay for services such as trash collection. Finally, more tax money is needed to give financial help to the poor citizens of the city. It is clear that the city will have serious problems if taxes are not raised soon.

- a) We should raise city taxes.
- b) City taxes are too high.
- c) City taxes pay for new roads.

▶ 4.) _____ . For example, a person can have breakfast in New York, board an airplane, and have dinner in Paris. A businesswoman in London can instantly place an order with a factory in Hong Kong by sending a fax. Furthermore, a schoolboy in China can turn on a TV and watch a baseball game being played in Los Angeles.

- a) Airplanes have changed our lives.
- b) Advances in technology have made the world seem smaller.
- c) The fax machine was an important invention.

WRITING A TOPIC SENTENCE

- ▶ **Write a topic sentence for each paragraph. Make sure your topic sentence expresses the main idea of the paragraph.**

Example:

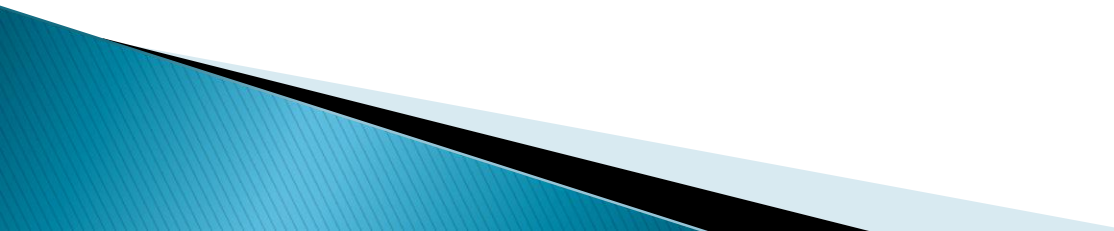
Miami is the perfect place to take a vacation.

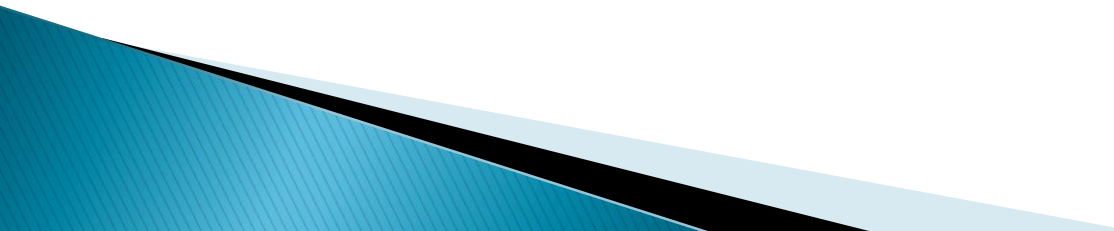
It is always sunny and warm. The beaches are gorgeous, with soft white sand and beautiful water. There are many fine restaurants in the Miami area, and most of the hotels offer terrific entertainment nightly. It's no wonder that Miami is my first choice for a vacation destination.

- ▶ 1.) _____
_____. He has collected stamps and coins ever since he was a child. He is very proud of his valuable collections. Paul also enjoys painting and drawing. Recently he has become interested in gardening. Out of all his hobbies, Paul's favorite one is reading. He usually reads at least one book every week. Paul keeps busy with all of his hobbies.

▶ 2.)

I can't wait to come home from school and eat the delicious meals she has prepared. She is famous for her desserts like peach pie and chocolate soufflé. She is always experimenting with new recipes and trying different ingredients. No one in the world can cook the way my mother does.



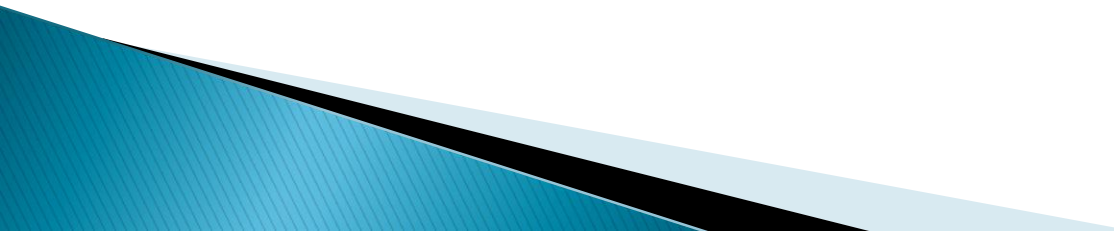
- ▶ 3.) _____
_____. First and most importantly, the work is very interesting. I learn new things every day and I get to travel a lot. In addition, my boss is very nice. She is always willing to help me when I have a problem. I have also made many new friends at my job. Last, but not least, the salary is fantastic.
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Hooks !!

You can think of an essay **hook** as you would a fishing hook: it's something that grabs a reader's attention and reels him in.

The **hook** for your essay could be any interesting sentence that captures attention and keeps the reader reading.

The **hook** for your essay is the very first sentence followed by the topic sentence.



Good Ideas for Hooks

- ▶ A HOOK can be an interesting....

Simile or a Metaphor My life has been a carnival.

Question Who is the greatest athlete of all times?

Definition Amiable is the best way to describe my personality: I am friendly and caring

Quotation “Learn to laugh” is something my teacher told me after Ralph spilled paint on my daffodil picture.

Comparison to a well-known person or celebrity

I am as photogenic as Tyra Banks.

Scene The day of my birth began with a typhoon pounding at our door in Weihai.

More Good Ideas for Hooks

- ▶ A HOOK can also be an interesting....

Dilemma Deciding to attend Shandong University was one of my most difficult decisions.

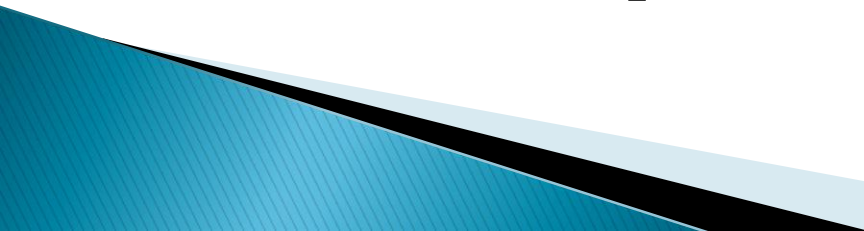
Anecdote As I walked to the beach, I saw a shaggy-haired man weaving unsteadily on a battered old bike.

Advice “Better eat your spinach,” Dad would say, “if you want to be as strong as Popeye.”

Future view/event In 2022 I see a world on fire.

Confessional I have to admit, I never thought that sort of thing would ever happen at Shandong University.

Example of a Hook and a Topic sentence (question)

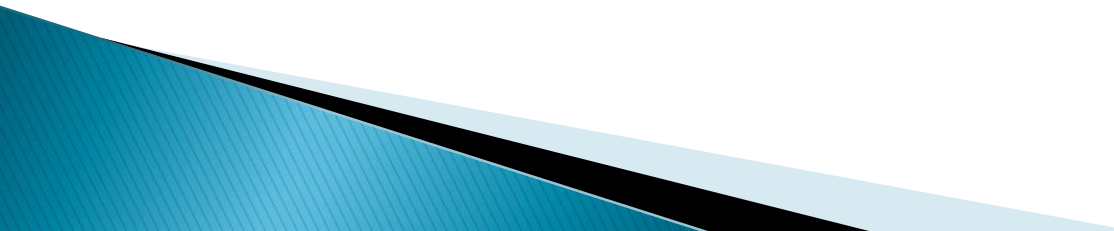
- ▶ What is a master teacher? What does it take to become one? Definitions bounce between experience-based and competency based. You're likely to find that the meaning varies.
 - ▶ One thing for sure, master teachers are leaders who have mastered the management of their classrooms and found ways to accelerate learning for all their students. Their expertise recognizes that the education process more than sharing content. It's about creating independent learners who have the critical thinking skills to grow and thrive via a curriculum adapted to learner's needs.
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Example of a triple Hook (confession & advice)

- ▶ **Let's be honest.** Practice doesn't make perfect. Rather, perfect practice makes perfect. And this generation is taking ownership of that goal. Digital recording technology is changing the way we teach adding fun, motivation, honesty, accountability and excitement like never before. I am thrilled to see this revolution in music education and impressed with the remarkable results digital recording has made student progress. I have effectively applied recording technology five ways in my teaching that I'd like to share with you: Audition recordings, Rehearsal recordings, Concerts recordings, Podcasts, Lesson assignments and instruction..

Another Hook (simile/metaphor)

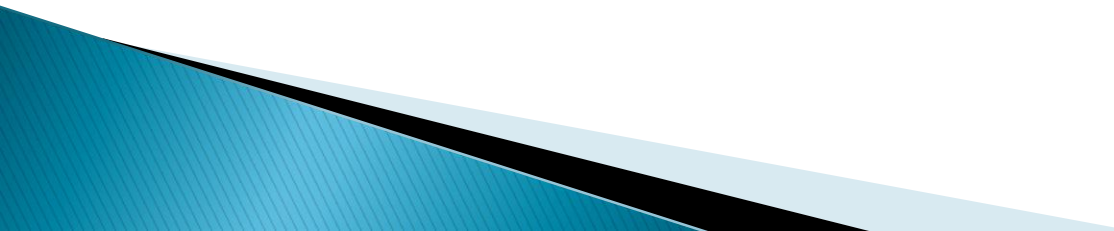
Sequencing harnesses the elements of sound. Of all the activities found in technology, sequencing is the easiest for students to create music, with minimum of music theory training. Ken Johnson, in an article published in *Music & Computers* magazine back in 1993, alerted me to ten ways to use a MIDI sequencer in the classroom.....



Last example of a hook and topic sentence (dilemma)

- ▶ **Technology is changing the delivery of education.** Flexibility, speed and cutting-edge creativity feed the need for faster delivery of in-service education and economic pressures stir up innovative opportunities. Here are over 130 online workshops and course offerings for every aspect of music technology education eliminating traditional travel and housing expenses. Instead, you'll need four things to join this new trend: Broadband Internet connection, a Pentium 4 -level computer or iMac (either with 4 GBs of RAM), and a microphone connected to the computer for voice-over-IP plus access to videoconferencing software for the interactive classes.

Why is a Hook and a Topic Sentence Important for the first paragraph?!?

- ▶ Grabs the Reader's attention in a "sea" of competition ...
 - ▶ Sets the tone for an Interesting reading experience.
 - ▶ Clearly defines the purpose & focus of the essay, magazine article, or news report.
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Assignment

- ▶ **Journal:**

“Prime the Pump”.....How do I use my English writing skills outside of class? Here are examples of what I have done to “prime my pump” in the past 5 weeks and how this has helped improve my English writing.

- ▶ See class email for your **2 Topic Sentence Writing Assignments**. Please print out and complete them. **Due at next class session.**