

Fact sheet - Level 1

The Topic of a Paragraph

The topic of a paragraph is generally introduced by a key sentence. This is often called a topic sentence. As its name suggests, this sentence contains the central idea of the paragraph. It may make a statement that the rest of the sentence develops. It often - but not always - comes at the beginning of the paragraph.

Topic sentence - the first sentence of a paragraph that tells the reader what the paragraph is about.

Supporting sentences - these sentences add details to the topic sentence.

Ending sentence - this concludes or closes the paragraph.

Example: The topic is **college**.

The **topic** sentence could be: College is very important.

Three **supporting sentences** relate to the topic sentence:

- You learn how to study.
- Teachers teach you how to organise your work.
- You learn how to use computers.

The supporting sentences can be moved around so that the paragraph is in order or makes more sense. To strengthen your writing, make sure that each of your supporting sentences relates well to the topic sentence. It is not enough to be generally in the same topic area.