

What's the Topic?

A **paragraph** is a group of sentences that tells about one main idea. The first line of a paragraph is **indented**. This means the first word is moved in a little from the left margin. The **topic sentence** expresses the main idea of a paragraph. It tells what all the other sentences in the paragraph are about. The topic sentence is often the first sentence in a paragraph. When good writers write a report, the main heading of each Roman numeral in an outline is the information included in the topic sentence of each paragraph.

PRACTICE

Write a topic sentence for each of these paragraphs.

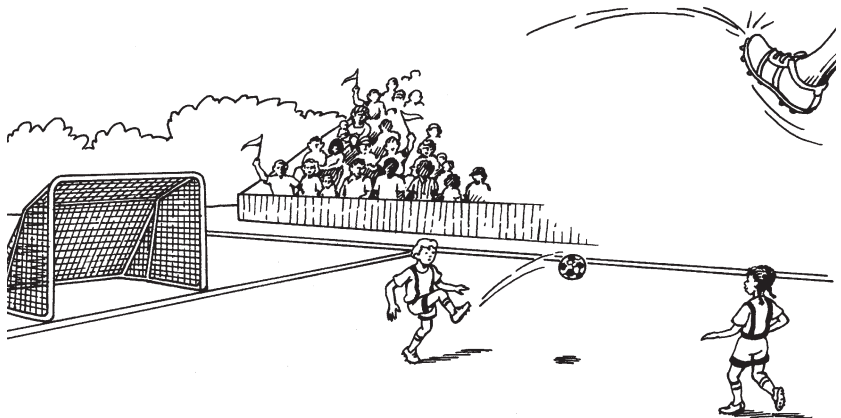
1. The summer had been extremely hot and dry. Many brushfires had broken out. People were told not to water their lawns or wash their cars. People responded by using less water and being careful about how they used water. Everyone realized the new rules were in the best interest of everyone.

2. Nancy read everything she could find about nursing. She spent hours in the library learning about first aid. When the call came for summer volunteers at the hospital, she was the first to sign up. She was determined to prepare herself as best she could for what she hoped would be her career.

3. There are many parks to enjoy. Museums and aquariums have interesting exhibits. Large stores and malls have a great selection of things to buy. Many large cities also have major sports teams to watch.

Skill Thrill

Think about three interesting places to visit in your area. Write a paragraph telling about these places. Make sure you have a topic sentence. Then, give the paragraph to a classmate. Have the classmate underline the topic sentence.



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Answer Key

Answers will vary.

