Tip-Top Topic Sentences

A Basic Topic Sentence

A basic topic sentence is the quickest (and lamest) way to begin your paragraph. Just copy the main idea, making sure that the sentence has a subject and verb and expresses a complete thought. Basic topic sentences are clear and direct.

Claim	Topic Sentence
It would lower the amount of waste we produce.	Eliminating the Starbucks from Hoboken would reduce the amount of waste our city produces.



1. A Topic Sentence That Adds a Description
A topic sentence that adds a description is similar to a basic topic sentence, but requires just a little more work. In this style, the author adds a brief descriptive phrase to clarify the subject of the sentence. A topic sentence that adds a description is precise and colorful.

Claim	Topic Sentence
It would lower the amount of waste we produce.	Our city, which accumulates an exorbitant amount of garbage each day, would cut back on waste a great deal if it were to eliminate its Starbucks franchises.

Now it's your turn. Create a topic sentence like the models above:

Your 1 st Claim (for 1 st Body Paragraph)	Your Topic Sentence

2. A Topic Sentence That Creates a Contrast
A contrast is another effective way to start your paragraph. To form this type of topic sentence, you will need to write a complex sentence beginning with <u>although</u>, <u>even though</u>, or while.

Claim	Topic Sentence
It would lower the amount of waste we produce.	Although there are a number of ways to reduce the amount of waste our city produces, one surefire way would be to eliminate the Starbucks franchises.

Now it's your turn. Create a topic sentence like the models above:

Your 2 nd Claim (for 2 nd Body Paragraph)	Your Topic Sentence

3. A Topic Sentence That Uses Creative Language Grab the reader's attention. You might look for vocabulary and ideas that are playful, inspirational, or interesting in some other way. Use strong action verbs and vivid descriptions.

Claim	Topic Sentence
It would lower the amount of waste we produce.	By eliminating the Starbucks from Hoboken, we
	would be decreasing the exorbitant amount of
	uneconomical, one-time-use cups that Starbucks
	shoves at its customers each day, ultimately
	reducing the amount of waste our city produces.

Now it's your turn. Create a topic sentence like the models above:

Your 3 rd Claim (for 3 rd Body Paragraph)	Your Topic Sentence