**What Is a Topic Sentence?**

The topic sentence contains the central idea around which a paragraph is developed. A good one has all or most of the following six characteristics:

1. It introduces the topic of a paragraph without announcing it.
2. It [hooks the reader.](http://www.brighthubeducation.com/high-school-english-lessons/8885-lesson-plan-on-writing-leads/)
3. It plants questions in the readers' mind.
4. It uses[thought-provoking words.](http://www.brighthubeducation.com/help-with-writing/33495-improving-word-choice-improves-your-writing/)
5. It is usually the first sentence

Not all topic sentences will contain every single characteristic.

**What should a conclusion sentence do?**

* stress the importance of the thesis statement (restate the topic)
* give the essay a sense of completeness
* leave a final impression on the reader/ ask a question/ challenge the reader

***Samples:***

**Chronological Order/ Description:**

6 million of the 9 million Jews living in Europe died as a result of The Holocaust that occurred during WWII. The Holocaust…

The world’s largest mammal, family oriented, smart, playful, and gentle: the elephant.

**Sequence:**

In order to bake a good oatmeal chocolate chip cookie, you need to follow the recipe; in order to make them perfect you must add the secret ingredient… love. To begin…

You can not just wake up in the morning and walk out the door for work, there is a routine to follow to make it a good day. First you must…

**Problem/Solution:**

Can you imagine your biggest struggle in life is figuring out how to spend a million dollars? When you win the lottery that is one of the first problems you will face as a new found millionaire.

Taylor Swift made a bold move last November when she took her music off of Spotify. She stated, “Artists should value their art and make sure that people are paying enough money for it” (Engle, Pamela). This was her number one reason for leaving the popular on-line music streaming company.

**Compare and Contrast**

While there are some similarities between \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, there are also some differences, particularly in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Or

Although \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are similar in some respects, they are quite different in terms of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Or

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are similar in many ways, but they have one major difference: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Cause and Effect**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ can have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ effects on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

OR

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is caused by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

OR

There are several different causes of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.