

LECTURE 3

Recognizing Topic Sentences

- a. The history of astronomy is interesting. ✗ *too general*
- b. Ice age people recorded the appearance of new moons by making scratches in animal bones. ✗ *too specific*
- c. For example, Stonehenge in Britain, built 3500 years ago to track the movement of the sun. ✗ *inc. sent*
- d. Ancient people observed and recorded lunar and solar events in different ways. ✓ **Best TS**

b. محددة جداً.

a. عامة جداً.

d. مثالية لأن تكون جملة الموضوع.

c. جملة غير تامة المعنى.

Identifying the Parts of a Topic Sentence

Driving on freeways requires skill and alertness.

↓
Topic

↓
Controlling Idea

Other examples..

Participating in class discussions is (a problem for several different groups of students).

In my opinion, (television commercials for cosmetics) lie to women.

(Owning an automobile) is a necessity for me.

It is an expensive luxury (to own an automobile in a large city).

Taste and appearance are both important in (Japanese cuisine).

من الأمثلة نلاحظ أنه يمكن للفكرة المسيطرة أن تتقدم على العنوان والعكس صحيح.

Writing Topic Sentences

When you write a topic sentence, remember these three points:

1. A topic sentence must be a complete sentence, with a subject and a verb.
2. A topic sentence should be neither too general nor too specific. If it is too general, the reader cannot tell exactly what the paragraph is going to discuss. If it is too specific, the writer will not have anything to write about in the rest of the paragraph.
3. A topic sentence should not have unrelated controlling ideas.

عندما تكتب جملة الموضوع تذكر هذه النقاط الثلاث:

- 1- جملة الموضوع يجب أن تكون كاملة وتامة المعنى، تحتوي على فعل وفاعل.
- 2- يجب أن لا تكون عامة جداً أو محددة جداً. إن كانت عامة جداً فلن يدرك القارئ عما ستتحدثون بالتحديد في القطعة، وإن كانت محددة جداً فلن يكون لدى الكاتب شيء ليكمل به بقية المقال.
- 3- يجب أن تكون جملة الموضوع مرتبطة ومتصلة كلياً بالفكرة المسيطرة.

Supporting Sentences

Supporting sentences explain or prove the topic sentence. One of the biggest problems in student writing is that student writers often fail to support their ideas adequately. They need to use specific details to be thorough and convincing. There are several kinds of specific supporting details: examples, statistics, and quotations.

الجملة الداعمة تكون إما للشرح أو للإثبات. ومن المشاكل التي يقع فيها المبتدئ في كتابة المقال هي عدم تدعيم فكرته وإظهارها بشكل كافٍ. فهو يحتاج إلى استخدام تفاصيل دقيقة. وهناك عدة وسائل لتدعيم المقال أو الفكرة كالأمثلة، الإحصائيات، والاقتباسات.

Paragraph A: paragraph without support

Red-Light Running

Although some people think that red-light running is a minor traffic violation that is no worse than jaywalking,¹ it can, in fact, become a deadly crime. Red-light runners cause accidents all the time. Sometimes people are seriously injured and even killed. It is especially a problem in rush hour traffic. Everyone is in a hurry to get home, so drivers run red lights everywhere. The police do not do much about it because they are too busy. The only time they pay attention is when there is an accident, and then it is too late. In conclusion, running a red light is a serious offense.

Paragraph B: paragraph with support

Red-Light Running

¹Although some people think red-light running is a minor traffic violation that is no worse than jaywalking, it can, in fact, become a deadly crime. ²Red-light runners cause hundreds of accidents, including deaths and injuries as well as millions of dollars in damages. ³Each year more than 900 people die, and nearly 200,000 are injured in crashes that involve red-light running. ⁴Motorists run red lights all the time. ⁵For example, in Fairfax, Virginia, a five-month-long survey at five busy intersections revealed that a motorist ran a red light every 20 minutes. ⁶Red-light runners are seldom caught. ⁷According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, “Communities don’t have the resources to allow police to patrol intersections as often as would be needed to ticket all motorists who run red lights” (“Q&A”).²

The Concluding Sentence

A concluding sentence serves two purposes:

1. It signals the end of the paragraph.
 2. It leaves the reader with the most important ideas to remember. It can do this in two ways:
 - By summarizing the main points of the paragraph
- OR
- By repeating the topic sentence in different words.

الجملة الختامية تفيد غايتين:

1- تعطي إشارة لانهاء القطعة.

2- تعطي للقارئ تلميح أو تذكير أخير عن أهم النقاط التي ذُكرت في القطعة. وتفعل ذلك بطريقتين:

• بذكر تلخيص سريع للنقاط الرئيسية في القطعة.

• أو بتكرار جملة الموضوع ولكن بصيغة جديدة ومفردات مختلفة.

A paragraph does not always need a concluding sentence. For single paragraphs, especially long ones, a concluding sentence is helpful to the reader because it is a reminder of the important points. However, a concluding sentence is not needed for every paragraph in a multi-paragraph essay.

الجملة الختامية ليست ضرورية. القطع ذات الفقرة الواحدة خصوصاً الطويلة منها تحتوي غالباً على الجملة الختامية لأن القارئ يحتاج أن يتذكر الفكرة الأساسية أو نقاط المهمة في المقالة. أما في القطع ذات الفقرات العديدة فلا يلزمها جملة ختامية.

**End-of-Paragraph Signals
Followed by a Comma**

Finally,
In brief,
In conclusion,
Indeed,
In short,

Lastly,
Therefore,
Thus,
To sum up,

**End-of-Paragraph Signals
Not Followed by a Comma**

The evidence suggests that . . .
There can be no doubt that . . .
These examples show that . . .
We can see that . . .

الجملة الختامية نوعان: متبوعة بفاصلة وغير متبوعة بفاصلة.

Notes

1. Many writing teachers think *In conclusion* and *In summary* are overused and so will not want you to use them.
2. Do not use the phrase *At last* as an end-of-paragraph signal. *At last* means “at the end of a long period of time,” as in this sentence: *At last, you’ve come home.*

- يُفضّل عدم استخدام *in conclusion & in summary* لأنها مستهلكة.

- لا تستخدم عبارة *at last* لتنتهي مقالك فهي تعني "في نهاية فترة طويلة من الزمن". استخدم *lastly* بدلاً منها.

A Hawaiian Legend

Native people create legends to explain unusual phenomena in their environment. A legend from the Hawaiian island of Kauai explains how the naupaka flower, a flower that grows on beaches there, got its unusual shape. The flower looks like half a small daisy—there are petals on one side only. The legend says that the marriage of two young lovers on the island was opposed by both sets of parents. The parents found the couple together on a beach one day, and to prevent them from being together, one of the families moved to the mountains, separating the young couple forever. As a result, the naupaka flower separated into two halves; one half moved to the mountains, and the other half stayed near the beach. This story is a good example of a legend invented by native people to interpret the world around them.

القطعة السابقة مثال على مقال نموذجي يحتوي على جملة ختامية صحيحة.

Note: Never introduce a new idea in the concluding sentence.

- INCORRECT In conclusion, we now have more variety of greeting cards to choose from, but they are also becoming very expensive. (*This is a new idea.*)
- INCORRECT In conclusion, there are many other legends like this one in Hawaii. (*This is a new idea.*)

الجملة الختامية لا تكون أبداً فكرة أو معلومة جديدة.