

Write a Topic Sentence

DIRECTIONS Write a topic sentence that communicates the main idea of each paragraph.

1. Before 1966, the ice axes used in mountain climbing had straight blades. This limited the kinds of slopes that could be climbed. When Yvon Chouinard added a slight curve to the pick side of the ax, however, even the steepest slopes seemed attainable. It was, indeed, the beginning of a new sport called *ice climbing*.

Topic sentence: _____

2. The curved ice ax has allowed climbers to take on nearly vertical slopes that once seemed impossible. Now, armed with their axes, daring ice climbers prefer the extremely dangerous vertical slopes. Some of their favorite challenges are frozen waterfalls.

Topic sentence: _____

3. Frozen waterfalls are intensely beautiful. Climbing on such ice is like climbing on a diamond that sparkles blue one minute and yellow the next. In addition, ice climbers get a breathtaking view of the winter world below them. Ice climbers also enjoy the challenges of frozen waterfalls. All the challenges of climbing an entire mountain can be encountered by scaling a single frozen waterfall.

Topic sentence: _____

4. When ice climbers are on the side of a frozen waterfall, their arms and legs are in constant use. Each hand holds an ice ax. Strapped to each boot are crampons, which are a layer of two-inch spikes, some of which point forward to grip the ice. It takes strength to drive the ax into the ice. Even when a climber is not moving, each muscle is needed to hold on.

Topic sentence: _____

5. Many experienced mountain and rock climbers shy away from this dramatic and dangerous sport. Those who do attempt the sport of ice climbing tend to be well prepared. They must have the right boots, gloves, spikes, and other equipment. While climbing, they are very slow and careful.

Topic sentence: _____

WORKSHOP 6: LEARNING ABOUT PARAGRAPHS

Copyright © by Holt, Rinehart and Winston. All rights reserved.

Collect Supporting Details

DIRECTIONS When you write paragraphs, you have to collect details that support your main idea. Practice with the following topic sentences. On the lines provided, list at least two details to support each topic sentence.

1. If I could organize a field trip, I know just where we would go.

Details: _____

2. I have accomplished something important.

Details: _____

3. Here is a person whom I consider successful.

Details: _____

4. I'm the kind of person who says what I think.

Details: _____

5. Cars have changed a lot since the 1970's.

Details: _____

6. Last summer was different from all the summers before it.

Details: _____

7. I hope to have an unusual career someday.

Details: _____

8. I think everyone needs a pet.

Details: _____

Identify a Sentence That Destroys Unity

DIRECTIONS Each of the following paragraphs has one sentence that destroys the unity. Cross out the unrelated sentence.

.....

1. The atmosphere on Venus is made up mostly of carbon dioxide and is heavier than the atmosphere on any other known planet. The average atmospheric pressure on Venus is ninety times greater than the average pressure on Earth's surface. Venus is the second planet from the Sun. If you stood on the surface of Venus, the amount of pressure on your body would be similar to the amount of pressure you would feel if you stood more than half a mile underwater on Earth.

2. Venus also experiences extreme temperatures. Venus is named for the goddess of love. The upper atmosphere goes from warm to extremely cold; it can vary from 25 degrees centigrade in the day to -150 degrees centigrade at night. The temperature increases, however, in the lower atmosphere. The planet's surface is unspeakably hot. It is hot enough to melt lead.

3. Venus's atmosphere is made up of thick clouds. Several layers of clouds surround the entire planet, and the layers move at different rates. The planet was called Phosphorus. The upper cloud layers move very rapidly, while the lower layers move more slowly. In fact, the upper clouds move about one hundred times faster than the lowest clouds.

4. Venus's cloudy atmosphere and extreme temperatures are related. The clouds that cover the planet reflect a lot of heat, so Venus absorbs less heat than Earth does. The heat that is absorbed is trapped and intensified by the clouds, and the surface temperature climbs. Radar images suggest that Venus may have sand dunes.

5. In the past, the dense cloud cover and turbulent atmosphere have made it difficult to see what the surface of Venus looks like. Venus rotates once every 243 Earth days. Scientists have been able to explore Venus, however. They have used spacecraft and radar to photograph and map the planet's surface.

Identify Transitional Words and Phrases

DIRECTIONS Underline all of the transitional words and phrases in the following paragraphs.

1. "It's going to storm," warned Grandmother, pointing to birds way up in the afternoon sky. Only a few clouds were in sight, but I knew she was right. When a thunderstorm is forming, warm, moist air flows upward. Consequently, flying insects are drawn up, too. Because the insects are higher, birds must fly higher than usual to catch and eat them. As a result, the birds provide a sign that the atmosphere is right for developing thunderstorms. The swallows we saw were flying so high that we could barely see them. Grandmother and I therefore checked the TV weather forecast, and just as Grandmother thought, rain was expected.

2. Do you think crayons are just for little kids? Think again. Just about everyone, from preschoolers to professional artists, loves crayons. Crayons are so popular, in fact, that some clubs work to preserve their history. In 1991, for example, these clubs protested when several old crayon colors were replaced with new, updated colors. In addition to liking the colors themselves, people like the expressive names of some crayons, such as *purple pizzazz* for purple. People are also crazy about the scent of crayons. For example, their waxy smell is one of the top twenty scents recognized by adults. Clearly, crayons are not just for kids!

3. Add together a cloudless night, a group of campers, and several telescopes, and what do you have? A star party, of course. Star parties take place at national parks, state campgrounds, and observatories—anywhere far from light sources such as cities. The night sky has to be very dark for the stars to show up well. Before the party begins, a park ranger or astronomer explains which constellations or planets are visible at that time of year. When darkness finally arrives, the Milky Way splashes its 200 billion stars across the sky, and it's time for the party to begin. Campers step up to telescopes and focus. Suddenly, Saturn's rings seem huge and bright. The moon's craters look truly deep. When the stars begin to fade around dawn, campers stumble into tents to sleep all day.

Write an Original Paragraph

DIRECTIONS Use the graphic organizer below to help you organize and write a paragraph on a topic of your choice.

► **Topic**

► **Type of Paragraph** (Place a check mark in the box next to the type of paragraph you will write.)

Narrative

Descriptive

Expository

Persuasive

► **Main Idea**

► **Topic Sentence**

► **Supporting Details**

Sensory details:

Facts:

Examples:

► **Organization of Ideas and Details**

Chronological order

Spatial order

Order of importance

Details in selected order:

Examples of transitions:

**p. 104 | for Workshop 4: Research
Cross-Curricular Choices**

(Choices and responses will vary.)

The activities provide options for students at all levels; however, you might suggest the Social Studies activity for Learners Having Difficulty and the Drama activity for Advanced Learners.

**p. 110 | Practice and Apply 4
Use Word-Processing or
Publishing Software**

(Students' responses will vary. Page layout, organizational features, and type style should be applied appropriately to the chosen paper.)

**p. 111 | for Workshop 5: Writing to Learn
Cross-Curricular Choices**

(Choices and responses will vary.)

The activities provide options for students at all levels; however, you might suggest the Databases activity for Learners Having Difficulty and the Spreadsheets activity for Advanced Learners.

Workshop 5

Writing to Learn

**p. 106 | Practice and Apply 1
Write a Summary**

(Students' summaries will vary. Responses should show that students have given serious thought to the underlying meaning of "A Veto on Video Games." Summaries should include the main idea and important details, and phrases from the passage should not be repeated word for word.)

**p. 107 | Practice and Apply 2
Create a Database**

(Students' databases will vary according to the movies selected as records. Each record should contain one field that provides a brief summary of the movie.)

**p. 108 | Practice and Apply 3
Create a Spreadsheet**

(Students' spreadsheets, calculations, and bar graphs will vary. Spreadsheets and bar graphs should reflect an understanding of how to gather and display data graphically. Calculations should reflect an understanding of how to analyze data from spreadsheets, and calculations should be accurately performed.)

Workshop 6

Learning About Paragraphs

**p. 112 | Practice and Apply 1
Write a Topic Sentence**

(Answers will vary. Sample answers follow.)

- 1. Topic sentence:** A simple change in the shape of the ice ax gave birth to the new sport of ice climbing.
- 2. Topic sentence:** Climbers can now go places that were off-limits before.
- 3. Topic sentence:** Mountaineers find ice climbing exciting for several reasons.
- 4. Topic sentence:** A person has to be in excellent shape to ice climb.
- 5. Topic sentence:** Ice climbing is not for casual climbers.

**p. 113 | Practice and Apply 2
Collect Supporting Details**

(Answers will vary, but should develop and support the main idea presented.)

Answer Key *(continued)*

p. 114 | Practice and Apply 3

Identify a Sentence That Destroys Unity

1. Venus is the second planet from the sun.
2. Venus is named for the goddess of love.
3. The planet was called Phosphorus.
4. Radar images suggest that Venus may have sand dunes.
5. Venus rotates once every 243 Earth days.

p. 115 | Practice and Apply 4

Identify Transitional Words and Phrases

(Transitional words and phrases are underlined.)

1. "It's going to storm," warned Grandmother, pointing to birds way up in the afternoon sky. Only a few clouds were in sight, but I knew she was right. When a thunderstorm is forming, warm, moist air flows upward. Consequently, flying insects are drawn up, too. Because the insects are higher, birds must fly higher than usual to catch and eat them. As a result, the birds provide a sign that the atmosphere is right for developing thunderstorms. The swallows we saw were flying so high that we could barely see them. Grandmother and I therefore checked the TV weather forecast, and just as Grandmother thought, rain was expected.
2. Do you think crayons are just for little kids? Think again. Just about everyone, from preschoolers to professional artists, loves crayons. Crayons are so popular, in fact, that some clubs work to preserve their history. In 1991, for example, these clubs protested when several old crayon colors were replaced with new, updated colors. In addition to liking the colors themselves, people like the expressive names of some crayons, such as *purple pizzazz* for purple. People are also crazy about the scent of crayons. For example, their waxy smell is one of the top twenty scents recognized by adults. Clearly,

crayons are not just for kids!

3. Add together a cloudless night, a group of campers, and several telescopes, and what do you have? A star party, of course. Star parties take place at national parks, state campgrounds, and observatories—anywhere far from light sources such as cities. The night sky has to be very dark for the stars to show up well. Before the party begins, a park ranger or astronomer explains which constellations or planets are visible at that time of year. When darkness finally arrives, the Milky Way splashes its 200 billion stars across the sky, and it's time for the party to begin. Campers step up to telescopes and focus. Suddenly, Saturn's rings seem huge and bright. The moon's craters look truly deep. When the stars begin to fade around dawn, campers stumble into tents to sleep all day.

p. 116 | Practice and Apply 5

Write an Original Paragraph

(Students' responses will vary but should reflect an understanding of the concepts presented throughout the workshop.)

Mini-Workshops

p. 118 | Practice and Apply

Writing: Draft a Cause-and-Effect Analysis

(Completing this organizer will help students write their drafts.)

p. 119 | Practice and Apply

Revising: Evaluate Cause-and-Effect Analyses

(Responses and suggestions will vary for each paper. Suggestions should provide concrete ways to improve the cause-and-effect analyses.)

pp. 120–121 | Practice and Apply Document Reference Sources

(Answers will vary. Students' responses should accurately reflect each reference source.)