

ENTENCES Get Their Attention TOPIC SENTENCES Occasion Posilion TOPICES TWO NOUNS TOPIC SENTENCES POWER NOODED cle the number words or phrases in these Pov is a number of ways to make potatoes We learned a few bicycle safety tips from the police The amusement park has several intense roller coasters. AS) 4. My dad is my hero for three important reas 5. Learning to play football well requires a variety of skills e Power Number Topic Sentences 8. The book The Sign of the Beaver inclu erness survival strategie 9. All athletes should know a up stretches of the ea

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Thanks! Jenn



Teacher notes:

TOPIC SENTENCES

1. When starting to work on paragraph construction, first we go over the main parts of the paragraph: Topic Sentence, "Star Ideas" (usually three), Details to support each Star Idea, and the Conclusion Sentence.

I have the kids color code a great deal, using paragraphs I've created or ones that previous students have crafted successfully (I use the <u>Paragraph Color Coding and Outlining packet</u>). The Topic Sentence and Conclusion sentences are highlighted in green, Star ideas are yellow and Details are red, following the Step Up to Writing Model. This color coding reinforces the concept of a paragraph and gives them a basic "recipe" for it. I also have the kids do a T-chart outline on the back of each color coded paragraph (notes only, not sentences) to help them further recognize the organization that went into writing the paragraph.

2. Next, I spend a day or two on each type of topic sentence.

Although there are many ways you can create a topic sentence, I feel that if kids at grades 3-5 (and even higher) can master a basic set of five topic sentences and use them with ease, this puts them in good stead as a growing writer. You can use the Topic Sentences at a Glance page as a teacher reference. Then, I introduce the types of topic sentences in the following order: List Statements, Power Number, Two Nouns and Two Commas, Occasion Position, and Get Their Attention. We go over examples together, the kids write a sentence on their whiteboards as I give them a topic. We also discuss how there are lots of "right" answers when it comes to writing.

3. After all five of the topic sentences have been presented, the review begins.

The first review day, I would recommend using the Topic Sentences to Discuss as a Class worksheet. You can project this on the Smart Board, if you have one, and kids can use whiteboards, to write the abbreviation for the topic sentence type, after each sentence is read. There are two other review pages (one for each of two days) and I like to have kids work on these with a partner, so they can discuss answers. I recommend correcting these together, so kids get instant feedback to see if they are on the right track.

The last review is a really fun one. I start by telling (not reading) students the story of the accidental creation of Tollhouse cookies (see the Tollhouse page for details). Then, I actually pass out chocolate chip cookies for the kids to enjoy! Of course, you have to be aware of food allergies in your class and need to follow school policies about foods in the classroom, but if you're able to do this, the kids love it! After the story and the cookies (if you're able), the kids then do the worksheet alone or with a friend and we correct it together.

4. For more review, I put kids in groups of 2 - 3 to play the Topic Sentence Card Sort Game.
I make sure to have the cards cut beforehand and divided into sets. I put each set in a baggie to keep them organized and separate from other sets.

I tell the kids to place each of the six topic sentence types (the title cards) in a row (going across) at the top of their work area and to stagger the sentence cards below them (not in a pile but lined up in a column), so I can tell at a glance if the group is on the right track. As I walk around, I pull the incorrect cards and tell them to try again, until all of the cards are placed correctly.

5. Keep reviewing periodically to help reinforce topic sentences.

I like to spiral concepts to help students retain information. It's easy to review topic sentences informally by asking a simple, "Which type of topic sentence is this?" question while practicing writing, when reading science or social studies materials and any time there is a clear example worth noticing. I am always amazed at how well students understand the 5 types by the time we are finished with the unit. I was never taught these specifically but feel that they are a great writing tool for beginning writers.

If you'd like to read more about paragraph writing, here are some blog posts I wrote, which might be helpful to you.

Topic Sentences:

https://the-teacher-next-door.com/my-blog/writing/teaching-paragraph-writing-topic-sentences

Color Coding and Outlining:

https://the-teacher-next-door.com/my-blog/writing/teaching-paragraph-writing-star-ideas

Transitions:

https://the-teacher-next-door.com/my-blog/writing/teaching-paragraph-writing-transitions

Conclusions:

https://the-teacher-next-door.com/my-blog/writing/teaching-paragraph-writing-conclusions

5 Tips for More Effective Paragraph Writing

http://www.upperelementarysnapshots.com/2017/01/5-tips-for-more-effective-paragraph.html

Please feel free to email me if you have any questions! jenn@the-teacher-next-door.com

Jenn

TOLLLOUSE (LO(OLATE (LIP (OOKIE STOP)

In 1930, Ruth Wakefield, and her husband Ken, owned the Toll House Inn in Massachusetts. It was a bed and breakfast where tired travelers would stop to sleep and to get a good meal. It was called the Toll House Inn because it was located near a toll road, where cars would have to pay a fee to travel on that road.

One day, Ruth decided to make "Butter Drop Do" cookies, which were similar to a vanilla or sugar type cookie that were made originally in the Colonial Days. Since she had a Nestle chocolate bar, she decided that she would chop it into tiny pieces and add it to the dough. There were no chocolate chips in those days, but Ruth thought that perhaps the chocolate would melt into the dough, making it more like a chocolate cookie. Instead, the bits of chocolate softened but held their shape and the chocolate chip cookie was born!

The cookie was such a big hit at the Inn that the recipe was soon published in the Boston Newspaper, as well as other newspapers in the New England Area. Eventually, the recipe was printed on the back of Nestle chocolate bars with the understanding that Ruth would be able to have all of the chocolate that she wanted, for free, for the rest of her life, so she could continue to make her delicious cookies. In 1939, Nestle semi-sweet chocolate chips were officially sold.



Topic Sentences

A sentence used to introduce the reader to the topic of a paragraph

List Statements

Lists the three star ideas. to tell exactly what the paragraph will be about

Power NUmber Uses number words like many, several, three, a few... to present the general topic

Two Nouns and Two Commas

Starts with a noun, describes it, and then makes a statement about it

Occdsion Position

Uses although, even though, when... with an occasion, and ends with the writer's position on it

Get Their Attention

Grabs the reader's attention by making an interesting statement

TYPES OF TOPIC Sentences

There are lots of different types of topic sentences. Here are five of them:

1. List Statements

A list statement tells the reader exactly what the paragraph will be about by listing the three star ideas.

Examples:

- A. My favorite sports include soccer, football, and basketball.
- B. When it's summer time, I like to go swimming, ride my bike, and play with my friends.
- 2. Power Number Statements

Power Number Statements do not tell the readers each of the star ideas but use number words (many, few, a number of, four...) to present the general topic. Examples:

A. There are several things you can do to become a better writer.

B. In order to climb Mt. Whitney, you need to know three safety rules.

3. Two Nouns and Two Commas

Two Nouns and Two Commas always starts with a noun (a person, place, or thing), describes it, and then makes a statement about it. The description part of the sentence is surrounded by commas (one before the description, and one after it). Examples:

A. Roald Amundsen, an explorer, was the first to find the Northwest Passage.

B. Folsom, a suburb of Sacramento, is a great place for families.

4. Occasion Position

Occasion Position topic sentences start with an occasion (a dependent clause) and use words like when, whenever, although, even though, and they end with the writer's position on the topic (an independent clause).

Examples:

- A. Whenever we celebrate the holidays, we always include some special traditions.
- B. Even though writing a report is a lot of work, you do learn a lot from the process.

5. Get Their Attention

These topic sentences try to grab the reader's attention by making a statement that is thought provoking, controversial, or interesting.

Examples:

A. The Italian Deli serves the best pastrami sandwiches in the country.

B. Gum chewing should be illegal!

SENTENCES: LIST STATPORT	\int
Name:	
A common way to start a paragraph is to use a topic sentence called a "list statement". List statements the reader exactly which topics will be covered in the paragraph.	tell
You can use a list of words: When we go camping, we enjoy fishing, hiking, and exploring. You can use a list of phrases: Getting ready for the Olympics takes strong determination, good self-disc and a healthy work ethic. You can use a list of dependent clauses: When I won the spelling bee, when I saw my newborn baby bro and when I met my best friend for the first time, I realized that this year was going to be my best yet.	other,
Finish these list statements:	
1. Plants need,, and	·
2. My Aunt and Uncle enjoy vacationing in	
, and,	
/	
3. When I get ready in the morning, I make sure to	,
, and,	·
4. When, when	
and when	
happened, I knew that it was going to be the worst day ever!	
5. My favorite sports include,,	
and	·
Now create your own list statements:	
6	
7	
 ٥	
8	
	acher Next Do

	TOPIC
F	TOPIC ENTENCES: POWER NUMBER
	Name:
A	An easy way to start a paragraph is to use a Power Number topic sentence. Power Number topic sentences use number words like <i>many, several, a few, a number of, a variety of, three</i> Circle the number words or phrases in these Power Number Sentences:
	 My mom knows a number of ways to make potatoes. We learned a few bicycle safety tips from the police officer. The amusement park has several intense roller coasters. My dad is my hero for three important reasons. Learning to play football well requires a variety of skills.
F	Finish these Power Number Topic Sentences:
	6. The new campers learned five to sing around the campfire.
	7. When my family goes out to eat, we usually go to one of ourfavorite restaurants.
	8. The book <i>The Sign of the Beaver</i> includes wilderness survival strategies.
	9. All athletes should know a of warm up stretches.
	10. There are things you can do to take care of the earth.
	Now create your own Power Number topic sentences: 11
1	12
1	I3

TOPIC SENTENCES: Two Nouns and Two Commas			
Name:			
One way to add variety to your topic sentences is to use Two Nouns and Two Commas. These sentences, also called appositives, start with a noun, and are followed by a description. Make sure when writing Two Nouns and Two Commas that you place a comma before and after the description of the noun.			
Here are a few examples: A. Mrs. Miller, our principal, is known for wearing fancy high heeled shoes.			
B. Your lungs, an important part of the respiratory system, can be damaged by smoking.			
C. The tomato, which is actually classified as a fruit, is a versatile food.			
Finish these Two Nouns and Two Commas topic sentences: 1. Chess, a of strategy, is very complex.			
2. Logorrhea, or talking excessively, is a problem that sometimes face in classrooms.			
3. Cricket, a gameto baseball, is popular in India.			
4. Philadelphia, home of the Liberty, has many historical sites to see.			
5. Synonyms, words that mean the thing, can be found in a thesaurus.			
5. Synonyms, words that mean the thing, can be found in a thesaurus. Now create your own Two Nouns and Two Commas topic sentences: 7 8			
8			
9			
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TOPIC SENTENCES: OCCASION POSILION

Name:

Occasion Position Topic Sentences are a great way to start a paragraph. These sentences start with an *occasion*, which is the "set up" part of the sentence and is a dependent clause. The second part of the sentence is the *position* and tells the reader what you plan to prove or explain. The *position* is an independent clause. Make sure to place a comma between the *occasion* and the *position* in your topic sentence.



Circle the occasion and underline the position in the following sentences:

- 1. Whenever I need a snack, I try to choose something that is healthy for me.
- 2. Although climbing Mt. Everest is a dangerous trip, the climber was determined to accomplish it.
- 3. After making the soccer team, she decided to continue to practice her skills.

Finish these Occasion Position Topic Sentences:

4. Even though bicycle helmets are sometimes uncomfortable, all bicyclists should

them.

- 6. If you are lucky enough to have a dog for a ______ make sure to take good care of him.

Now create your own Occasion Position topic sentences:

Use these words/phrases to help you get started.

after although	as soon as wherever	even though while	whenever in order to	unless even if	whether as long as
7					
8					
9					
					© The Teacher Nex

TOPIC SENTENCES: Get Their	Attention
Name:	
Get Their Attention topic sentences are declarative stateme one's opinion and include a strong verb or action word.	nts. These sentences usually tell
Here are a few examples: A. The pancakes at Grandma's Diner on Main Street are the best!	
B. Our soccer team was undefeated this season!	
C. The salaries of fast food workers should be increased.	
Finish these Get Their Attention topic sentences:	
1. Coffee loving adults usually love to go to	
2. The downtown movie theatre serves the most delicious _	
3. Reciting the Preamble to the Constitution impressed my	·
4. The most interesting fish in the	is the blob fish.
5. The westward bound	faced tremendous hardships.
 The westward bound	of the way they
Now create your own Get Their Attention topic sentences:	:
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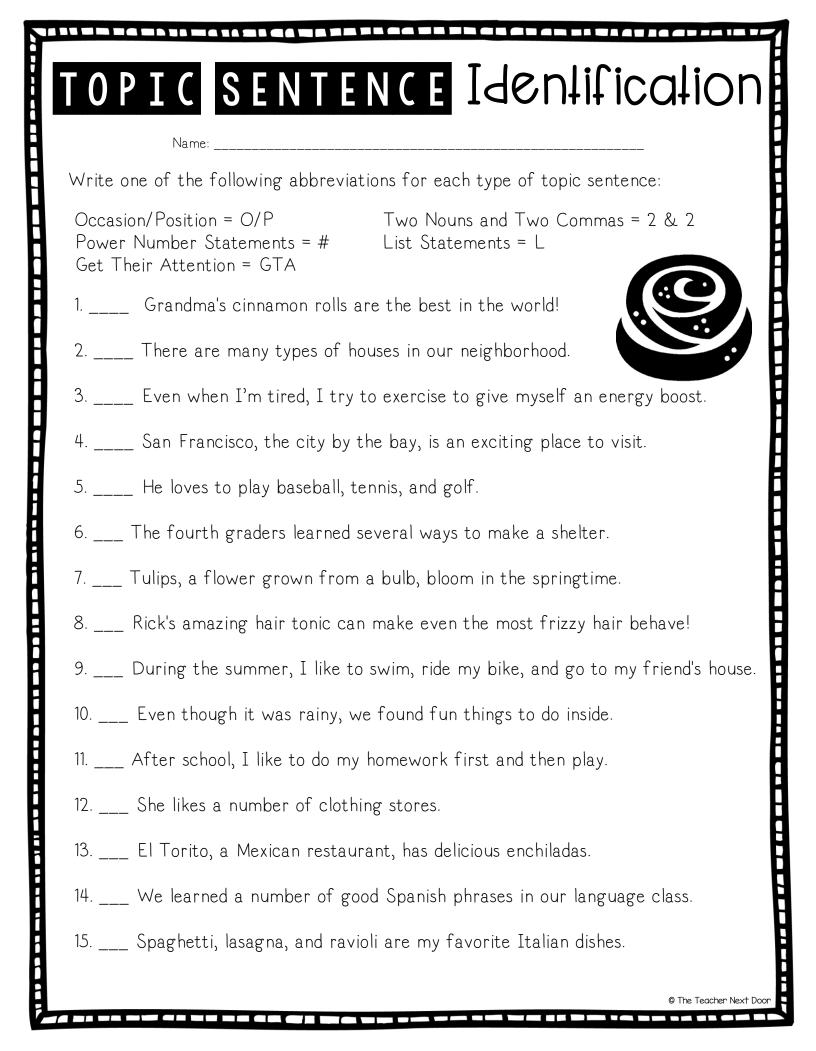
DOPEO Sentences

Occasion Position = OP Power Number = # Get Their Attention = GTA List Statement = L Two Nouns and Two Commas = 2 & 2

1. Visitors to Egypt will want to see five amazing sights.

- 2. The most delicious pizza can be found at Chicago Fire.
- 3. My room has a study area, a play area, and a sleep area.
- 4. In the summer, we swim every day.
- 5. I enjoy doing three types of sports.
- 6. When I ran a marathon, my family cheered me on.
- 7. George Washington, our first president, loved animals.
- 8. Star Wars ranks as one of the all-time best science fiction movies!
- 9. Although I was sick, I was still able to watch T.V.
- 10. Christopher Columbus, an explorer, sailed across the Atlantic.
- 11. At Marie Calendars, there are a variety of pies to choose from.
- 12. Football players might be offensive, defensive, or on special teams.
- 13. Even if you're afraid of heights, skydiving is an exciting sport.
- 14. My parrot says the most interesting phrases!
- 15. My brother loves spaghetti, French bread, and salad.

TOPIC Sentence IDENTIFICATION
Name:
Write one of the following abbreviations for each type of topic sentence: Occasion/Position = O/P List Statements = L Power Number Statements = # Two Nouns and Two Commas = 2 & 2 Get Their Attention = GTA
1 Marco Polo, an early explorer, traveled to Asia.
2 The best cinnamon rolls can be found at Grandma's Caf é .
3 Jackson School recess areas include the blacktop, the play-structure, and the field.
4 In the winter, I enjoy doing three outdoor activities at Lake Tahoe.
5 When I decided to run for student council, my principal gave me some good advice.
6 Squanto, an American Indian, helped the pilgrims learn to plant corn.
7 The Wizard of Oz had some exciting special effects for a movie at that time.
8 Although I was unable to go to the King's game, I enjoyed spending time with my Grandpa.
9 Tourists traveling to Japan will want to visit four interesting sights.
10 At the Folsom Bakery, there are plenty of desserts to choose from.
11 Soccer players include a goalie, defenders, midfielders and forwards.
12Even if you are nervous, zip lining is an activity you'll want to try.
13 My dog is the smartest dog in the world!
14 My family loves to have popcorn, M&Ms, and Dr. Pepper at the movies.
15 Before you learn to drive, you need to know the rules of the road. © The Teacher Next Door



Topic Sentences Review: MACOLATE (HIP COOKIES

Name:

When you start to write a paragraph, you need to choose a good topic sentence. The topic sentence tells what the paragraph will be about. All the sentences below were written about chocolate chip cookies. Match the topic sentences to their types:

List Statement = L Power Number = # Occasion Position = O/P Two Nouns and Two Commas = 2 & 2 Get Their Attention = GTA



- ___1. Chocolate chip cookies, invented by an American woman, are one of the most popular cookies in the world.
 - 2. Whenever you eat chocolate chip cookies, you should drink a glass of cold milk to go with it.
 - _3. There are three things I like best about chocolate chip cookies.
 - _4. Butter, sugar, and flour are some of the main ingredients in chocolate chip cookies.
 - _5. Mrs. Field's cookies are delectable!
- __6. Even though there are many types of cookies, chocolate chip cookies are my favorite.
- ____7. The most delicious chocolate chip cookies are fresh from the oven.
 - _8. Famous Amos, a businessman from Los Angeles, owns his own cookie making company.
 - _9. Chocolate chip cookies can be homemade, bought in a bakery, or purchased in a package from the grocery store.
 - _10. Chocolate chip cookies may be made in many different ways.



Directions:

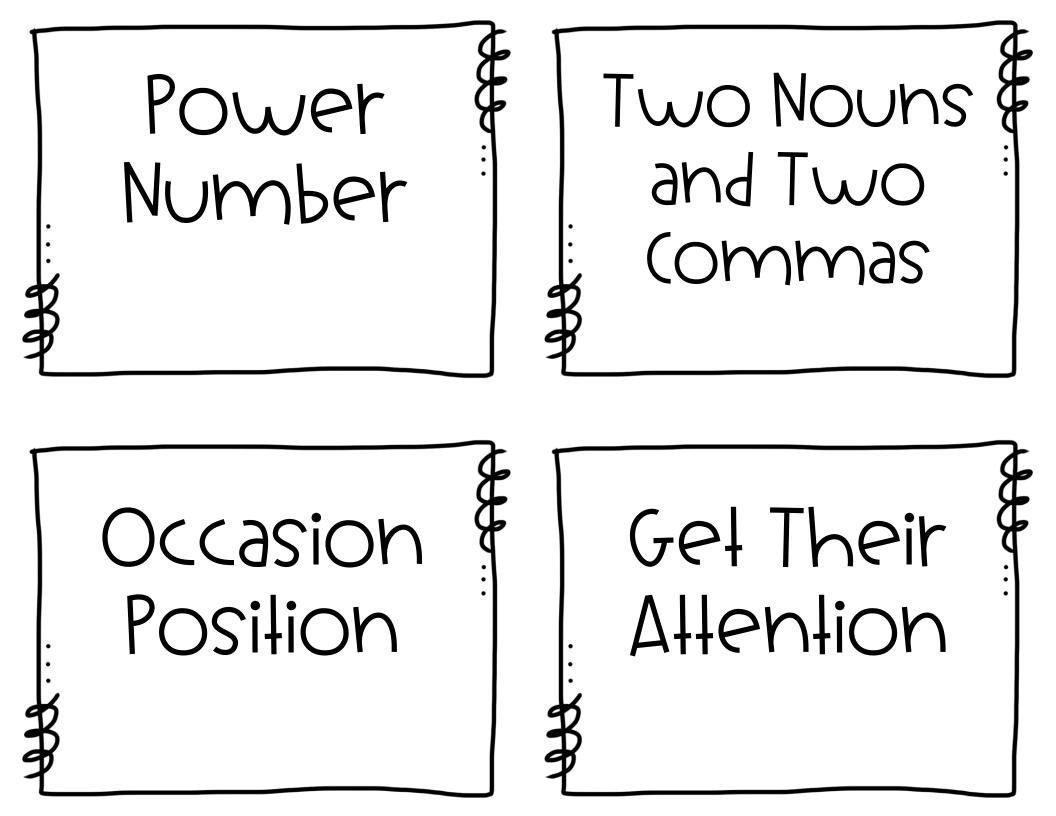
1. Place the topic sentence title cards in a row (going across) at the top.

2. Read each topic sentence card. Each topic sentence card should be placed below (going down) the correct topic sentence type. Make sure to place the cards in a line and not in a pile, so all of the cards may be seen.

Without looking... (an you name all 5 types of topic sentences?

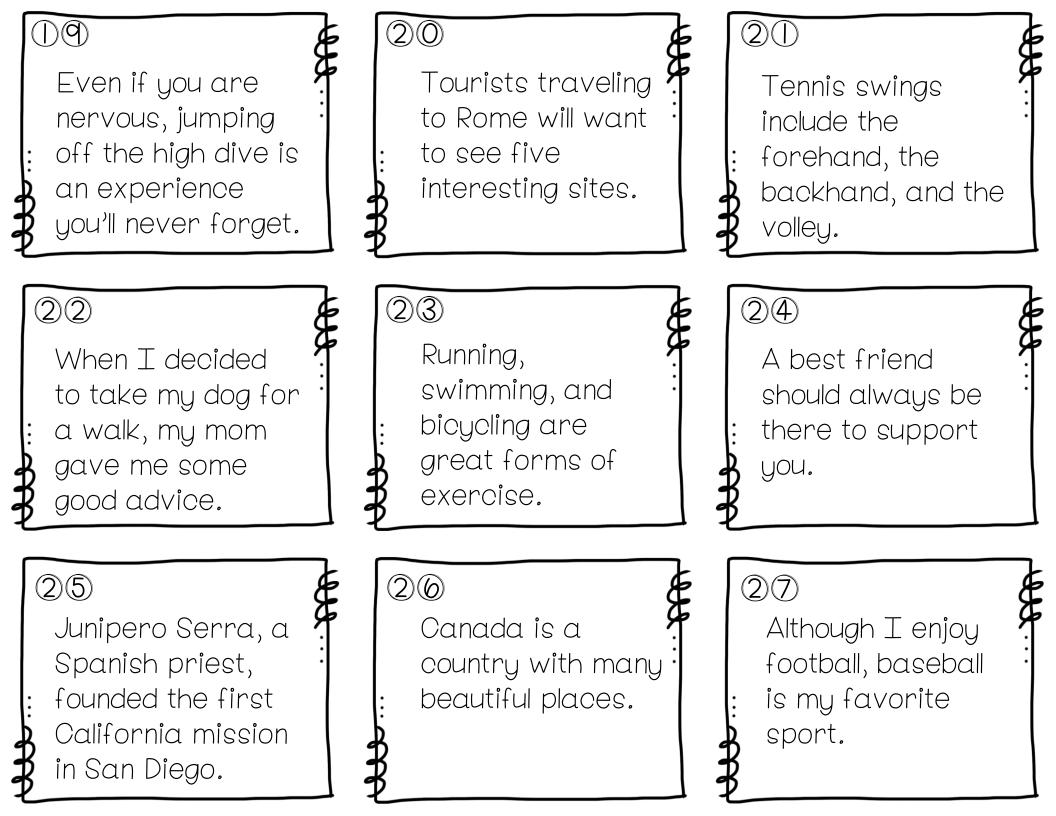
- 1. List Statement
- 2. Power Number
- 3. Two Nouns and Two Commas
- 4. Occasion Position
- 5. Get Their Attention







Lake Tahoe can't Former President Snickers, Kit Kat, be beat for a Bush, a republican and Take Five great vacation from Texas, has are my favorite spot. two daughters. candy bars. ()(3)(1)(5)(1)At my grocery Strawberries, You can always store, there are bananas, and count on my dad lots of fresh fruits to help with mangoes make a and vegetables. homework. delicious smoothie. \bigcirc (1)(7)(1)(8)At Macaroni Grill, My Brother There are four there is usually a Vinny's, an Italian ways to make restaurant in Old homemade clay. long line of people waiting to be Folsom, has seated. delicious bread.





TOPOC Sentence Writing Review
Name: Revie • •
Pretend you are writing a paragraph about
Write a different topic sentence for each sentence type:
1. List Statement:
2. Power Number:
3. Occasion Position:
4. Two Nouns and Two Commas:
5. Get Their Attention:
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DOPEO Sentences

Occasion Position = OP Power Number = # Get Their Attention = GTA List Statement = L Two Nouns and Two Commas = 2 & 2

1. Visitors to Egypt will want to see five amazing sights. #

- 2. The most delicious pizza can be found at Chicago Fire. GTA
- 3. My room has a study area, a play area, and a sleep area. L
- 4. In the summer, we swim every day. $\ensuremath{\mathsf{O/P}}$
- 5. I enjoy doing three types of sports. #
- 6. When I ran a marathon, my family cheered me on. $\ensuremath{\mathsf{O/P}}$
- 7. George Washington, our first president, loved animals. 2 & 2
- 8. Star Wars ranks as one of the all-time best science fiction movies! GTA
- 9. Although I was sick, I was still able to watch T.V. $\mbox{O/P}$
- 10. Christopher Columbus, an explorer, sailed across the Atlantic. 2 & 2 $\,$
- 11. At Marie Calendars, there are a variety of pies to choose from. O/P or #
- 12. Football players might be offensive, defensive, or on special teams. L
- 13. Even if you're afraid of heights, skydiving is an exciting sport. O/P
- 14. My parrot says the most interesting phrases! GTA
- 15. My brother loves spaghetti, French bread, and salad. L

TOPIC Sentence IDENTIFICATION
Кеу
Write one of the following abbreviations for each type of topic sentence: Occasion/Position = O/P List Statements = L Power Number Statements = # Two Nouns and Two Commas = 2 & 2 Get Their Attention = GTA
12 & 2_ Marco Polo, an early explorer, traveled to Asia.
2GTA_ The best cinnamon rolls can be found at Grandma's Caf é .
3L_ Jackson School recess areas include the blacktop, the play-structure, and the field.
4#_ In the winter, I enjoy doing three outdoor activities at Lake Tahoe.
5O/P_ When I decided to run for student council, my principal gave me some good advice.
62 & 2_ Squanto, an American Indian, helped the pilgrims learn to plant corn.
7#_ The Wizard of Oz had some exciting special effects for a movie at that time.
8O/P_ Although I was unable to go to the King's game, I enjoyed spending time with my Grandpa.
9#_ Tourists traveling to Japan will want to visit four interesting sights.
10#_ At the Folsom Bakery, there are plenty of desserts to choose from.
11L_ Soccer players include a goalie, defenders, midfielders and forwards.
12O/P_Even if you are nervous, zip lining is an activity you'll want to try.
13GTA_ My dog is the smartest dog in the world!
14L_ My family loves to have popcorn, M&Ms, and Dr. Pepper at the movies.
15O/P_ Before you learn to drive, you need to know the rules of the road. © The Teacher Next Door

TOPIC SENTENCE Identification

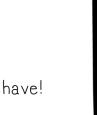
Key

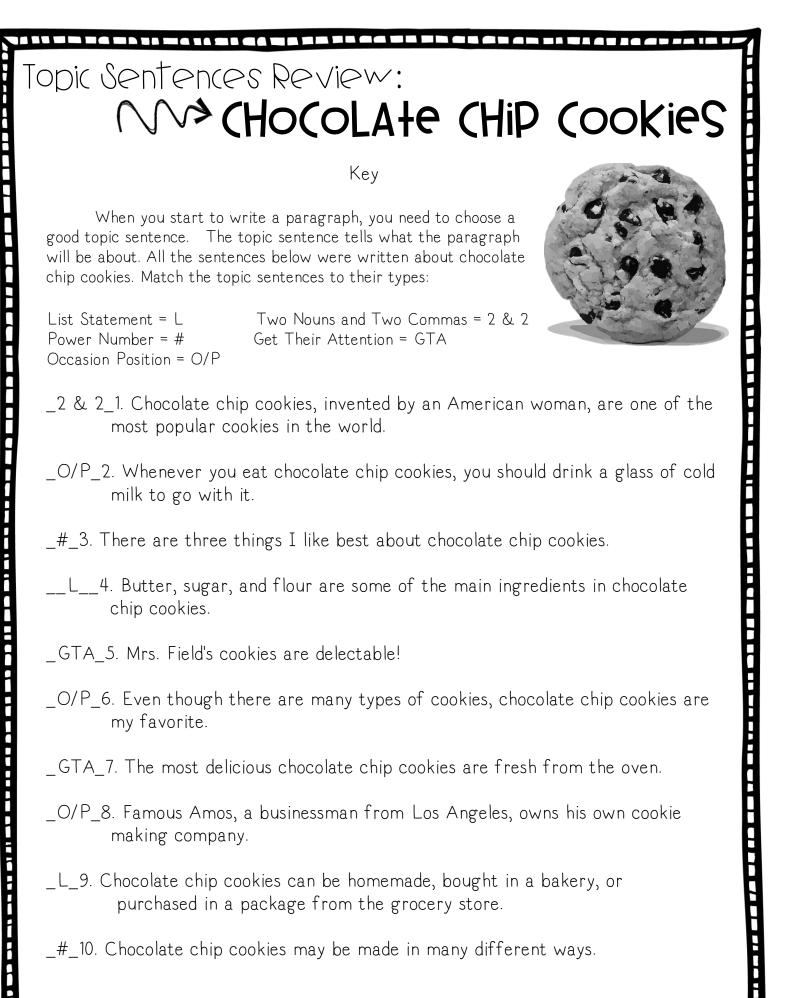
Write one of the following abbreviations for each type of topic sentence:

Occasion/Position = O/P Power Number Statements = # Get Their Attention = GTA

- Two Nouns and Two Commas = 2 & 2 List Statements = L
- 1. _GTA_ Grandma's cinnamon rolls are the best in the world!
- 2. _#_ There are many types of houses in our neighborhood.
- 3. _O/P_ Even when I'm tired, I try to exercise to give myself an energy boost.
- 4. _2 & 2_ San Francisco, the city by the bay, is an exciting place to visit.
- 5. _L_ He loves to play baseball, tennis, and golf.
- 6. _#_ The fourth graders learned several ways to make a shelter.
- 7. _2 & 2_ Tulips, a flower grown from a bulb, bloom in the springtime.
- 8. _GTA_ Rick's amazing hair tonic can make even the most frizzy hair behave!
- 9. _O/P and L_ During the summer, I like to swim, ride my bike, and go to my friend's house.
- 10. $_O/P_$ Even though it was rainy, we found fun things to do inside.
- 11. _O/P__ After school, I like to do my homework first and then play.
- 12. _#_ She likes a number of clothing stores.

- 13. _2 & 2_ El Torito, a Mexican restaurant, has delicious enchiladas.
- 14. _#_ We learned a number of good Spanish phrases in our language class.
- 15. _L_ Spaghetti, lasagna, and ravioli are my favorite Italian dishes.





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Topic Sentence Card GAME KEY

These abbreviations are used for the topic sentence types:

Occasion/Position = O/P	List Statements = L
Power Number Statements = #	Two Nouns and Two Commas = 2 & 2
Get Their Attention = GTA	

1. 2 & 2	25. 2 & 2
2. GTA	26. GTA
3. 2 & 2	27. O/P
4. O/P	28. O/P
5. O/P	29. L
6. O/P	30. GTA
 6. O/P 7. O/P 8. L 9. # 10. GTA 11. 2. & 2 	31. 2 & 2
8. L	32. 2 & 2
9. #	33. L
10. GTA	34. GTA
11. 2 & 2	35. GTA
12. L	36.2&2
13. L	
14. O/P	
15. GTA 16. # 17. O/P 18. 2 & 2 19. O/P	
16. #	
17. O/P	
18.2&2	
19. O/P	
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20. # 21. L 22. O/P 23. L 24. GTA	
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