

EFFECTIVE TOPIC SENTENCES

Name:
Teacher:

Class:
Date:

Directions: Choose the most effective topic sentence for the following paragraphs.

People walking while listening to an iPod are unable to hear a car horn or dog barking. This could lead to a dangerous situation that could be easily avoided if people stopped trying to multi-task while listening to their music. Sometimes listening to an iPod has beneficial recreational purposes, but people should not become so attached to their iPod that they put themselves in danger.

- A. I have never, ever liked iPods.
- B. My mother always told me to be careful what I stick in my ears.
- C. My primary issue with iPods is that they can be distracting devices.**
- D. It is difficult to find two people who agree on the best iPod available.

The mashed potatoes glisten off the plate and taste especially creamy. Although I am not a fan of green beans, these miniature pieces of heaven are seasoned to perfection. Finally, the steak is out of this world; their special steak sauce is delicious. After the main course, I always order their famous dessert: a slice of the chocolate mint ice cream cake.

- A. To celebrate birthdays, my family always goes out to eat.
- B. When cooked well, green beans are one of my favorite vegetables.
- C. There are several techniques to preparing the perfect steak dinner.
- D. Tony's Steakhouse is my favorite restaurant because of their delicious food.**

You Try! Read the following paragraphs and write your own effective topic sentence for each one. Remember to think about the main idea of the paragraph.

ANSWERS WILL VARY BUT SHOULD FOCUS ON THE MAIN IDEA OF THE PARAGRAPH.

Paragraph #1:

I feel alive whenever I kick the ball and score a goal. I love receiving high fives from my teammates after a big play. Every Saturday is an exciting adventure on the field that I look forward to week after week.

Paragraph #2:

Epcot has futuristic rides as well as ones that make you feel like you are flying. Magic Kingdom is more suitable for young children who want to feel as though they are in a Disney movie; they can meet many of their favorite characters there. Animal Kingdom is also a fun park because you can get up close to several wild animals and even pet some!

Paragraph #3:

All of the leaves turn glorious shades of red, orange, and yellow. The coolness and drier air begin to sink in and set the stage for the approaching winter season. Football, pumpkin gourds, and the smell of apple cinnamon take over the house. What a magical time of year.

Paragraph #4:

My best friend's favorite pizza topping is pineapple. I, on the other hand, prefer vegetables such as green peppers, onions, and black olives on my pizza. If we are forced to share a pizza together, we usually compromise and order half of what he wants and half of what I want.

Paragraph #5:

If I decide to take Spanish, then I could continue learning that language in high school. However, if I choose French, then I would probably have to switch languages once I enter ninth grade. This could be a tougher choice than I thought!