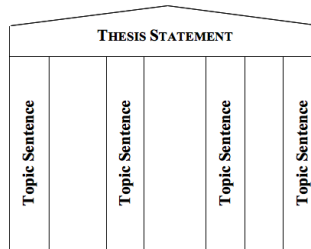


COM 6: Topic Sentences

Topic sentences are the first sentences of each body paragraph in your writing. Topic sentences are important because they express the main idea that will be discussed in the paragraph at hand, and they may also help transition from one idea to the next. Some people think of topic sentences as mini thesis statements since they express the main idea of a single paragraph rather than the whole essay. Make sure each topic sentence you write supports the main argument of the paper, your thesis.

The Roof and Pillar Analogy

One way to think about **topic sentences** is through the roof and pillar analogy. The thesis statement covers the overall argument of the paper and is supported by the topic sentences, which provide the points and evidence needed to prove or develop the thesis.



Developing Topic Sentences for Your Project: Use the following checklist to help you refine each topic sentence.

- Does the topic sentence support my thesis?
- Does the topic sentence transition from my previous paragraph or indicate a relationship between this topic and the one before it?
- Does the topic sentence clearly identify the point I am addressing in this paragraph OR show the reader that the argument is preparing to change directions?

When you are finished writing your paper, you can check the connectivity between your thesis and topic sentences by listing them below. If you have more than five topic sentences, continue listing them as needed.

Thesis: _____

Topic Sentence 1:

Topic Sentence 2:

Topic Sentence 3:

Topic Sentence 4:

Topic Sentence 5:

Visit the Writing Center for more help on your writing project! Stop by LIB 362 or visit us online at [mtsu.mywconline.com](https://www.mtsu.edu/mywconline.com) to schedule an appointment.