Topic Sentences

Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: A **topic sentence** tells the reader what the whole paragraph is about. It is usually the **first** sentence, and every other sentence in the paragraph supports it.

Think umbrella: the topic sentence is big enough to cover all the details underneath it.

1. Choose the topic sentence

Read the details. Circle the topic sentence that covers all of them.



1. Details: Beavers cut trees with their teeth. They build dams across streams. Their lodges have underwater doors.

(a) Beavers are amazing builders.
(b) Beavers have teeth.
(c) I saw a stream.

2. Details: You can swim at the lake. You can build sandcastles. You can eat ice cream on the boardwalk.

(a) Sand is hot.
(b) There are lots of fun things to do at the beach.
(c) Ice cream melts.

3. Details: Wash your hands with soap. Cough into your elbow. Get plenty of sleep.

(a) Soap smells nice.
(b) I sleep at night.
(c) There are easy ways to stay healthy.

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2. Write a topic sentence

Write a topic sentence that would start a paragraph about each topic.

1. my favourite holiday

2. how to take care of a goldfish

3. why recess is important

4. an animal you find interesting

Answer Key

Topic Sentences · Grade 3

1. Choose the topic sentence

1. Details: Beavers cut trees with their teeth. They build dams across streams. Their lodges have underwater doors.

- (a) **Beavers are amazing builders.**
- (b) Beavers have teeth.
- (c) I saw a stream.

2. Details: You can swim at the lake. You can build sandcastles. You can eat ice cream on the boardwalk.

- (a) Sand is hot.
- (b) **There are lots of fun things to do at the beach.**
- (c) Ice cream melts.

3. Details: Wash your hands with soap. Cough into your elbow. Get plenty of sleep.

- (a) Soap smells nice.
- (b) I sleep at night.
- (c) **There are easy ways to stay healthy.**

2. Write a topic sentence

Answers will vary. These are examples.

1. my favourite holiday
   Thanksgiving is my favourite holiday because my whole family comes together.
2. how to take care of a goldfish
   Taking care of a goldfish is easy if you follow a few simple steps.
3. why recess is important
   Recess is an important part of the school day.
4. an animal you find interesting
   Octopuses are some of the cleverest animals in the ocean.