Topic Sentences

Good topic sentences contain two elements, a topic plus a controlling idea, that let the reader know what the paragraph will be about. Think of topic sentences as mini-thesis statements.

Examples:

1. To be an effective CEO requires certain characteristics.

Topic: “effective CEO”

Controlling idea: “certain characteristics”

1. Dogs make wonderful pets because they help their owners to live longer.

Topic: “Dogs make wonderful pets”

Controlling idea: “they help their owners live longer”

1. Crime in poverty stricken areas occurs as a result of a systemic discrimination.

Topic: “Crime in poverty stricken areas”

Controlling idea: “systemic discrimination”

1. Teen pregnancy may be prevented by improved education.

Topic: “Teen pregnancy may be prevented”

Controlling idea: “improved education”

1. Remodeling a kitchen requires research and a good eye.

Topic: “Remodeling a kitchen”

Controlling idea: “requires research and a good eye”