



A good topic sentence clearly states the main idea of the paragraph and is supported by interesting details.

- A. Read this paragraph from a biography. Circle the topic sentence and underline the details that support it.

John Ross: An Old-Fashioned Country Doctor

Dr. John Ross was well-known for going out of his way to help his patients. Many of his patients were poor farmers, and they could not always afford to pay Dr. Ross's small fee. The good doctor would accept vegetables, eggs, or even a simple "thank you" in payment. One winter afternoon, he made a house call to see a child with a fever. The girl's family had run out of the firewood they needed to keep their tiny house warm. Dr. Ross grabbed a spare blanket from his car and told the father to bathe his daughter's forehead with cool water. Then Dr. Ross left to take care of other patients. After setting a broken leg, delivering a baby, and cleaning an infected finger, he returned to the sick child's house with a load of firewood. He built a roaring fire for the little girl and her family.

- B. The topic sentence is missing from this paragraph. Write a topic sentence that states the main idea of the paragraph.

One former patient, who had paid Dr. Ross many times in eggs, brought homemade chicken soup for the sick doctor. Another patient fixed a hole in his roof, and another drove to town to buy medicine for the doctor. The little girl who had suffered from the fever was all grown up, and she made sure that the doctor's faithful dog enjoyed a walk every day.

Topic Sentence: _____



Make sure all of your details support your main idea.

A. Read this book report. Use proofreading marks to:

- move the topic sentence to a better place.
- delete details that do not support the topic sentence.

A Good Mystery

Trixie Belden is a thirteen-year-old who solves mysteries with her friends. I can't wait to be thirteen. In The Secret of the Mansion, Trixie meets Honey, a girl who becomes her best friend. I have always wanted to live on a farm like Trixie's family does. The Secret of the Mansion by Julie Campbell is the first in a series of mysteries featuring Trixie Belden. Trixie and Honey work together to find out what is going on in a spooky old mansion that is supposed to be empty—but it's not! Trixie and Honey find a boy named Jim in one of the rooms. Old houses are scary and full of cobwebs. Jim has run away from his mean stepfather to live in the mansion, which used to be his great-uncle's home. Supposedly, his great-uncle hid thousands of dollars in the house, so the search is on for the missing treasure! I won't give away the book's ending, because not knowing is part of the fun. But if you want a great mystery, read The Secret of the Mansion. My brother thought this book was boring.

B. Find the three possessive nouns in the book report. Use them to complete these sentences.

1. The _____ two main characters are Trixie and Honey.
2. Jim really wants to find his _____ treasure.
3. _____ first name is actually Beatrix.



State your main idea in a topic sentence. Then provide interesting details that support the main idea.

Plan a report about the funniest or scariest book you have read. In the center of the web, write a topic sentence for your report. In the outer circles, write details that support your main idea.

**Ideas**

Include details that your reader would want to know and that support your main idea.

- A. Read this beginning of a newspaper article. Fill in the blank with the name of your favorite author. Then provide supporting details by answering the questions.

Author Visits Local Library

Last Saturday, Colton Public Library delighted the community by hosting a party for the famous author _____

1. What books did the author talk about? What else did he or she do at the party?

2. How many people were there? _____

3. What did the people at the party think about the author? _____

4. What was the best part of the party? _____

- B. Use proofreading marks to correct the use of apostrophes in this paragraph.

Colton Public Library offers free tutoring to student's of all ages. The tutoring centers hours are from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday's and Fridays. The center is located to the right of the librarys' main door's.