

Ways to Write Topic and Concluding Sentences

◆ Occasion/Position

An occasion/position statement is a complex sentence with the dependent clause first. The dependent clause states the occasion and the independent clause states the position.

Examples:

Although late starts are necessary, problems in the school system often result.

Even though football cards are just pictures on cardboard, some can be extremely valuable.

Words to start an occasion/position statement

after	as soon as	even though	so that	whenever
although	because	if	though	where
as	before	in order that	unless	wherever
as if	even	in order to	unless	whether
as long as	even if	since	when	while

◆ Power Statement

A power statement is a statement that shows that a list of information will follow. It includes a number word.

Examples:

Three rivers have serious pollution problems.

In the spring I enjoy watching two track events.

Avoid: There are statements; instead, think of using who, what, where, when statements.

Words that are often used in power statements

a couple of	a number of	numerous	some	various
a few	four	plenty of	three	
a myriad	many	several	two	

◆ However Statements

However, one of the conjunctive adverbs, can help organize thought into a compound topic sentence. The first part will usually be the occasion; the second part will usually be the position. When the conjunctive adverbs are used in the middle of the sentence, a semicolon will precede the adverb and a comma will follow it.

Examples:

The new rules in English class seemed fair at first; however, later they proved to be unfair.

The after school football league was place for boys to practice their skills; therefore, the coaches suggested that all boys take part.

Conjunctive Adverbs

as a result	in fact	meanwhile	otherwise
consequently	instead	nevertheless	still
furthermore	likewise	next	therefore

◆ And, But, and Or Statements

And, but, and or creates compound topic sentences. A comma precedes the conjunction.

Examples:

Some people find it hard to plan their time wisely, but most can succeed by following a few simple steps.

The old lady did not want to sell her house, but her children convinced her it was for the best.

◆ A Few Good Prepositions

Try using a prepositional phrase to introduce the topic sentence. Remember, that not every preposition will work for every subject.

Examples:

According to *The De Witt Times News*, there will be a meeting for football player later in the week.

During our vacation, we met several interesting people from other countries.

Prepositions

Aboard	because of	during	near	till
About	before	for	of	to
above	behind	from	off	toward
according to	below	in	on	under
across	beneath	in addition to	onto	underneath
after	beside	in back of	out	until
against	besides	in case of	out of	up
along	between	in front of	outside	up to
along with	beyond	in regard to	over	upon
alongside	but	in spite of	past	with
among	by	inside	round	
around	despite	instead of	since	
as for	down	into	through	within
away from	due to	like	throughout	without

◆ To, Plus a Verb

An infinitive is the work to plus a verb. Some examples are to win, to dance, to sleep. A topic sentence beginning with an infinitive is usually clear and direct.

Examples:

To win at chess, the player needs to analyze and think carefully.

To attract new customers, the hair salon offer free shampoo and hair spray.

◆ The List Statement

A list statement lists the categories that you will discuss in your paper. It can also be called a specific topic sentence.

Examples:

The new store offers convenience, good prices, and friendly service

I love the new car, but I am having trouble with the brakes, with the horn, and with the trunk lid.

◆ Get Their Attention

Use a declarative (telling sentence) with the strong action verb.

Examples:

The new convenience store *offers* the best price on gas.

The salary of the public officials must be *increased*.

◆ A Rhetorical Question

A rhetorical question is a question that is asked when we want to get someone's attention, but we do not expect or want them to answer it.

Examples:

What are you doing to promote school spirit? Several students have banded together to develop a spirit plan for Tri County.

How are your study habits? A new program is being tested at Tri County.

◆ Side-by-Side Statements

Use two simple sentences-one for the position and one for the occasion. This works best if you want the emphasis on the position.

Examples:

It may be good to experience frustration. Too much is extremely dangerous.

Small children belong in car seats. It belongs in the back seat, not the front seat.\

◆ Semicolon Topic Sentence

This is like a side by side statement, but the main ideas are connected by a semicolon rather than a period or a conjunction.

Examples:

The basketball team deserved to lose the game; the player and coaches were fighting among themselves the entire game.

Buying a new house is exciting; it is also frustrating.

◆ Two Nouns and Two Commas

This is a topic sentence that uses an appositive. It is a noun followed by a description that tells more about the noun. It helps put more information in a topic sentences.

Examples:

Podunkville, a small town in the middle of nowhere, made the national news today.

The humerus, a bone in your arm, is crucial.

◆ Using a Quotation

Using a quotation is often a powerful way to start a paper. It makes a good topic sentence.

Examples:

The best advice that anyone gave me was, "Life is too short, live it well."

My grandmother always said, "Children who do not listen, need to feel."