

The Topic Sentence Should Do Three Things

- **Make an argument:** a specific claim about what the paragraph will discuss
 - **Offer a transition:** an indication at the beginning about the place of this topic sentence in the structure of the essay.
 - **Be Clear and Concise:** the topic sentence should be easy to read and clear for reader
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The Paragraph Should Include Three Types of Sentences:

- **Claims:** claims are arguments that you want the reader to believe, your point, your position, your argument
 - **Evidence:** evidence statistics, quotes, examples, and everything else that shows that your claims are true.
 - **Analysis:** analysis is the most challenging part of the paragraph. It's where you explain why your evidence proves your point, why it matters, and how it links to the topic sentence.
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How Much Should Go In Your Paragraph?

- **The minimum expectation for the paragraph will be eight sentences**, which means that you will likely have a topic sentence and two claims underneath it, each supported by evidence and analysis.
 - **The paragraph should contain** at least one concrete example, a detail that demonstrates specifically how the schools operate in a way that is similar or alike.
 - **This pattern will ensure that your paragraph works:**
 - Topic Sentence
 - Claim 1
 - Analysis/Evidence (2 sentences)
 - Claim 2
 - Analysis/Evidence (2 sentences)
 - Summary of Paragraph
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It's undeniable that, once students get to high school, there are higher academic expectations for students. High school teachers almost always expect their students to complete more homework than teachers in middle school. Since I've come to Helena High, the amount of homework I've had to complete has nearly doubled, from one hour to two hours a night. In fact, a study by the National Education Association reveals that high school students often do more homework in a single night that middle school students will do in a week. It's not just homework: teachers in high school have higher expectations for grades, too. In middle school, students can turn in work that is not very well-done and even incomplete and still receive good grades, but in high school incomplete assignments will get an F. Many students are shocked by the grades they receive in their freshman year because teachers expect so much of them. There's no question about it: high school academics are much more demanding than those in middle school.
