

## Introduction to Topic Sentences

### What is a topic sentence?

A topic sentence:

- is the **first sentence** of a body paragraph (not to be confused with introductions and conclusions).
- contains the **main idea** of the paragraph in a clear and simple way.

### Why are topic sentences so important?

They help the reader understand your writing and the points you will make—they are like sign posts. If you took away everything in a paragraph except the topic sentence, the reader would still understand the point you're trying to make.



**Topic sentences keep the reader focused on your points.**

### How does a body paragraph work?

1. A topic sentence usually comes first, but can be at the end (first is the safest option). It is a **simple summary** of all the information in the paragraph.
2. The following sentences add more details, explanations or examples. Each point should lead to the next.
3. The ending sentence should relate back to the topic sentence.

### The parts of a paragraph:

Topic sentence > Main Idea

**I believe that everybody in Hong Kong should use public transport.**

Supporting Points

Firstly, it would reduce pollution and traffic jams. The reason for this is that there are too many private cars on the road, giving off smoke and blocking the roads. By taking a bus or the MTR, people can improve the air quality and also reduce the amount of traffic. Another reason is the cost is much lower. It costs a lot to fill a car's gas tank. On the other hand, buses, ferries and MTR tickets are inexpensive. Using public transport not only helps improve our environment but also saves time and money.

Ending Sentence

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## Essay 2

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### Question

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Last week, your school held the annual school music night, 'Music Around the World'. Write an article for your class newsletter reporting the details of that event. Give your article a name.

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### Exercise

Match the topic sentences at the end with the correct body paragraphs.

Music makes the school go round

'Music Around the World' held in the main hall, was a big hit with teachers, parents and students alike. The annual music festival night was proudly organised by the Grade 7 Music Club. Hosted by Mr Wong, it featured music from different countries around the world.

The president of the Music Club assigned lots of different roles to the members of the organising committee. Students in Grade 7 worked tirelessly, selecting playlists, inviting parents and building beautiful art installations. It was fun working together and they grew more and more excited the closer the event came in the school calendar.

\_\_\_\_\_ He told the audience about his many years travelling around the world. The music that he encountered was exciting and vibrant. That experience inspired him to start collecting unusual musical instruments and bringing them back to Hong Kong. The speech was of great interest to the students in the audience—it's not often we get to hear about our teacher's lives!

## Answer Key

### Essay 2

#### Music makes our school go round

'Music Around the World', held last week in the main hall, was a big success for teachers, parents and students alike. The annual music festival night was proudly organised by the Grade 7 Music Club, led by Mr Wong, it featured music from all of the different countries around the world.

#### Preparation for the music night required cooperation and advance planning.

The president of the Music Club assigned lots of different roles to the members of the organising committee. Students in Grade 7 worked tirelessly, selecting playlists, inviting parents and building beautiful art installations. It was fun working together and they grew more and more excited the closer the event came in the school calendar.

#### At the start of the event, Mr Wong made an entertaining introductory speech.

He told the audience about his many years travelling around the world. The music that he encountered was exciting and vibrant. That experience inspired him to start collecting unusual musical instruments and bringing them back to Hong Kong. The speech was of great interest to the students in the audience —it's not often we get to hear about our teacher's lives!