

Name _____

Color Me Green Topic Sentences

The topic sentence introduces the topic and explains why the writer is writing. Topic sentences are the heart of informative/explanatory writing.

1. Complex Sentence Type – Occasion/Position

Begin your sentence with one of these words: **After, Although, As, Before, Even though, If, Since, Unless, Until, When, Whenever, While**

Ex. **After** you eat these delicious cupcake brownies, your life will be changed forever.

2. Action Verb Statements – Choose an action verb and put it in the middle of your sentence.

Endings can be added or taken away from the words: **makes, created, built, believed, enjoyed, painted, devoured, discovered, generated, surprised**

Ex. Follow these simple steps to **make** delicious cupcake brownies.

Ex. Research **shows** exercise makes people healthier.

3. Power (Number) Statements – Choose a number word: **two, three, four, several, a number of, a couple, some, a few, many**

Ex. In only **four** steps you can make the most delicious dessert called cupcake brownies.

Ex. There are **several** ways to jump rope.

4. And, But, and Or statements – Choose a conjunction: and, nor, yet, but, so, or

Ex. I'm not known to be much of a cook, **but** I can tell you how to make a delicious batch of cupcake brownies.

Ex. You can be frustrated as your kite falls to the ground, **or** you can follow these steps for a successful flight.

5. Question Plus a Statement – Ask a question to get the reader’s attention.

Ex. How can kids make a difference? There are many ways that kids can help people in need.

Ex. Want to host a party with a tasty treat? Brownie cupcakes are a great dessert anyone can make.

6. Where or When Plus What’s Happening Topic Sentences –

Where or When

In just about any kitchen

In Seward Alaska,

What’s Happening

you can make a delicious cupcake brownies.

a thirteen year-old name Benny Benson designed the Alaska Flag.

7. Compare/Contrast Statements – Introduce the subject, then add one or two of these words to your sentence. **different, the same, unlike, in common, better, alike, differences, similar, worse**

*Ex. Raspberries and blackberries have **similar** flavors.*

8. Using a Quotation in Topic Sentences – Adding a quotation can create a strong topic sentence. Quotations often grab the attention of readers.

Ex. Trying something new can be scary, but it is helpful to remember what the actress Helen Hayes said: “The expert in anything was once a beginner in everything.”

Ex. Many explorers have set out with the words of Amelia Earhart in mind: “Adventure is worthwhile in itself.”
