

Skill Focus: Topic Sentences Support the Thesis

Persuasive

Argumentative

Literary Analysis

Expository/Informational

Objective: While planning an essay, students develop an outline with strong topic sentences that support the thesis.

Estimated Time: 2 class periods

Practice



Practice: [Is the Topic Sentence On Topic or Off Topic?](#) 

Students prepare to write strong topic sentences by evaluating whether topic sentences support a given thesis.

10–25
minutes


Draft



Graphic Organizer: [Persuasive](#)
[Argumentative](#)
[Literary Analysis](#)
[Expository/Informational](#)

Starting with a thesis and evidence, students identify themes in their evidence and use these themes to draft topic sentences. Choose the graphic organizer above that best fits your essay.

15–20
minutes

 Use your own essay prompt, or check out [our assignment library](#) for inspiration!


Revise



Peer Review: [Topic Sentences](#)

Students provide anonymous feedback on five classmates' thesis and topic sentences, then revise their own outlines based on peer feedback.

45–60
minutes

Rubric: Outline is convincing
Topic sentences support the thesis 



To learn more about Peer Review, check out this article in our Help Center: [How do I use Peer Reviews in my classroom?](#)