

**FULL** Names NEATLY written:

Hour:

## Introduction and Topic Sentence Review

**TOPIC SENTENCES** -Provide a **GENERAL** overview of the paragraph  
(without going into specifics – specifics follow the topic sentence)

- ❖ AVOID short choppy sentences
- ❖ Use transitions
- ❖ VARY sentences so they are not too much alike
- ❖ AVOID saying things like this paragraph is about

Let's practice TOPIC SENTENCES TOGETHER

IMAGINE you are going to write a paragraph about **BENJAMIN BEING THE BEST ANIMAL on the farm**. Which one of the sentences below is the BEST TOPIC SENTENCE for THAT paragraph? (Be sure to refer back to the criteria above.)

- a. Clearly, Benjamin is the most important animal on the farm because he was the one who revealed what the side of the van said and what really happened to Boxer
- b. *Animal Farm* is a story of corruption, deceit, and the abuse of power that keeps readers on the edge of their seats.
- c. After reading this, you will understand why Benjamin was the most important animal on the farm.
- d. Benjamin's intelligence and strong moral character make him the most important animal on the farm

## GRADED ON YOUR OWN

### Intros:

- ❖ **Catch Attention (best if you can do it w/out asking a ?)**
- ❖ **Provide a Brief Overview of the Paper (the THESIS or CLAIM) without saying things like “this paper is about” or “I will write about” or “you will read about” (it can be stated over multiple sentences)**
- ❖ **Be specific about the claim but WITHOUT going into detailed examples or information**
- ❖ **TAG (Title, author, and genre)**
- ❖ **3 or more sentences**

#### Sample #1

Passion, a bitter feud, and deceit prove to be a deadly mix for Shakespeare's young star crossed lovers in the *The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet*. This senseless tragedy could have easily been avoided if the families would have resolved their differences. Although Romeo and Juliet are certainly partially responsible for their demise, it was Tybalt who fueled the feud which ensured they could not be together. Furthermore, Friar Lawrence, who should have been a voice of reason, actually orchestrated their deceitful and deadly plan. Therefore, they are all responsible for the senseless tragedy.

#### Sample #2.

*Romeo and Juliet* is a famous love story by Shakespeare that ends tragically. The two lovers could not be together because their families were feuding. The differences seem so senseless because the families did not even know what they were fighting about anymore. Lots of characters made bad decisions and so there is plenty of blame to go around. After reading this paper you will understand who is most responsible for Romeo and Juliet's deaths

1. Of the two intros, which one has the better catch attention?

2. Of the two intros, which one more clearly states the thesis or claim?
  
3. Of the two intros which one avoids the forbidden wording such as this paper will be about, I will explain how, etc. (these exact words aren't used in either but a variation of them are used in one of the intros)
  
4. Based on your evaluation, which one is the better intro?

5. Topic Sentence #1

CIRCLE the **Best** Topic Sentence for a paragraph that is about **why Romeo and Juliet themselves are responsible for their own deaths.**

- a) This paragraph will explain why Romeo and Juliet are responsible for their own deaths.
  
- b) Even though several people are partially responsible for Romeo and Juliet's deaths, Romeo and Juliet themselves are also accountable for taking their own lives.
  
- c) Romeo and Juliet are to blame for their own deaths.
  
- d) Romeo and Juliet are to blame for their own deaths because they went behind their parents' backs instead of just trying to talk with them.
  
- e) Deceit, passion, and feuds spell disaster for the star crossed lovers.

**Next write a note explaining WHY the one you selected is the best option.**

Turn the page

6. Topic Sentence #2 – CIRCLE the BEST TOPIC SENTENCE for a paragraph about Tybalt being responsible for Romeo and Juliet's deaths.

- a) Although Romeo and Juliet are ultimately responsible for taking their own lives, Tybalt clearly contributed to their deaths as well.
- b) After reading this, you will understand that Tybalt clearly is to blame for Romeo and Juliet's deaths.
- c) *Because Romeo and Juliet* is a story full of passion, conflict and deceit, it has stood the test of time.
- d) In addition, Tybalt is to blame for Romeo and Juliet's deaths because he confronted Romeo both at the dance as well as in the street.

**EXPLAIN WHY it is the BEST topic sentence:**

7. Topic Sentence #3 - NOW write a topic sentence on your own sentence for paragraph #3. The sentence you write will be about the **FRIAR being responsible for Romeo and Juliet's deaths**

8. Write a topic sentence about Friar being responsible for Romeo and Juliet's deaths. You will NOT need to remember specifics from the play since topic sentences do NOT go into specifics. Good Luck!
- ❖ AVOID short choppy sentences
  - ❖ Provide a general overview/preview of the paragraph
  - ❖ Use transitions
  - ❖ VARY sentences so they are not too much alike
  - ❖ AVOID saying things like this paragraph is about