

## WRITING A TOPIC SENTENCE

### *The Catcher in the Rye*

A successful **topic sentence** will tell the reader what your paragraph is about. Each body paragraph that you write should start with a topic sentence. The topic sentence contains the same three elements as your thesis statement: subject/topic, attitude/argument, and focus. All three elements in the topic sentence should be the same as those in your thesis statement. The difference is your topic sentence will only contain one of the three areas of focus presented in your thesis statement.

**Example:** Look at the thesis statement provided below. You will notice the subject/topic appears in red, the attitude/argument appears in blue, and the focus appears in green. Now, look at each topic sentence. You should see that the subject in the topic sentence is the same as the one in the thesis statement. You should see that the attitude/argument in the topic sentences is the same as the one in the thesis statement, and you should see that the first topic sentence contains the first area of focus from the thesis statement. The second topic sentence contains the second area of focus presented in the thesis statement and the third topic sentence contains the third area of focus presented in the thesis statement. This is the basic construction of a clear topic sentence.

#### Thesis Statement

*The Catcher in the Rye* reveals the theme that **hypocrisy** is an inescapable presence in all of humanity through **Holden's interactions with others, reflections on himself, and his obsession with innocence.**

#### Topic Sentence #1

*The Catcher in the Rye* reveals the theme that **hypocrisy** is an inescapable presence in all of humanity through **Holden's interactions with others.**

#### Topic Sentence #2

*The Catcher in the Rye* reveals the theme that **hypocrisy** is an inescapable presence in all of humanity through **Holden's reflections on himself.**

#### Topic Sentence #3

*The Catcher in the Rye* reveals the theme that **hypocrisy** is an inescapable presence in all of humanity through **Holden's obsession with innocence.**

**Directions:** Write your thesis statement on the line below. Then write each of your topic sentences. Remember to keep the same subject/topic and attitude/argument but change the area of focus for each topic sentence.

Thesis Statement: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Topic Sentence #1: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Topic Sentence #2: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Topic Sentence #3: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_