TOPIC SENTENCES
TWO STEPS TO CLEAR, CONCISE & CONNECTED ARGUMENTS

THE BIG PICTURE
The topic sentence is the first sentence of every paragraph and concisely states the main point or central claim of the paragraph. A good topic sentence has the following two characteristics:

1 SUPPORT YOUR THESIS
Topic sentences always relate back to the thesis statement. It should connect directly to one of your supporting arguments.

Thesis
Prayer is vital in the life of believers for through it Christians develop their relationship with God, focus on spiritual things, and express their heart to God.

Topic Sentence (for Point #1)
Prayer strengthens the believer’s relationship with God through daily communication and fellowship with the Father.

More specifically, topic sentences should answer the how, what, or why of the thesis statement.

Thesis
Competing in athletics is a demanding pursuit in which competitors must discipline themselves in the areas of endurance, technical skill, and coordination.

Topic Sentence (Answers the How)
Participating in a sport requires athletes to be disciplined in the area of endurance by completing cardio workouts on a regular basis.

2 MAKE AN ARGUABLE CLAIM
The topic sentence should be a “mini-thesis” for the paragraph. It must be a statement that can be argued and is proven by the contents of the paragraph.

✔ Can Be Argued
Studying theology is crucial in the life of a Christian in that it expands the learner’s knowledge of God.

✗ Not Arguable
Augustine was a theologian who lived in the fourth century.

STRONG TOPIC SENTENCE EXAMPLES
Notice how each example is an arguable claim.

Burnout is a potential challenge many students face, but proper rest can prevent it from occurring.

A college education is a valuable pursuit because of the many employment opportunities it creates.

God’s Word is the lens through which Christians should interpret news media in the world today.