

TOPIC SENTENCES

Name _____

Lesson 1A

Date _____

INSTRUCTIONS: In the following paragraphs, draw a line under the Topic Sentence. Remember, the Topic Sentence is not always the first sentence of the paragraph.

T(6)

1. Brenda worked for years to become a newspaper reporter. She studied hard in school, and she got good grades. Working at night for a local paper, she learned all the jobs that one can do on a newspaper. After Brenda graduated, she applied to several different newspapers. Finally, she was hired by the "Ice Line" newspaper in Alaska.

T(6)

2. Entering high school as a student for the first time can be an adventure. For one thing, the building is so large that it's easy to get lost trying to find the right classrooms, but it's fun locating them. Then, seeing and meeting new people can mean lots of new friends and dates. Next, trying to figure out how to unlock your locker, meeting your lockermate, and decorating your locker can lead to giggles and good times. Starting high school is an adventure which students remember for the rest of their lives.

T(6)

3. The price of fuel for cars, industries, businesses, and homes has risen for many reasons. One reason is that finding oil for gasoline in the United States is harder and more difficult than it used to be. A second reason is that the old fields of oil are not as productive as they once were, and they are slowly becoming empty. A third reason is that the foreign countries which have lots of oil have banded together, and they keep the prices high for the barrels of oil the United States buys. All these reasons make the cost of fuel high for the consumer.

T(6)

4. George had five dollars to spend at K-Mart. First, he walked around the store to check the prices of several items that he needed. After he had narrowed his choices, he returned to the sporting goods, automotive, and stereo areas. Once there, he bought a spinner fish lure, a plastic cup-holder for his car, and a brush and head-cleaner for his car's cassette player; the sales clerk put his purchases in a sack. Now he was ready to enjoy some fishing at the lake, drinking his cold drink, and listening to his car's stereo cassette player.

T(6)

5. After the death of her father, Gloria Vanderbilt was involved in a lengthy trial to see whether her mother or her aunt would become her guardian. Although Gloria Vanderbilt is known today as a famous woman in producing designer jeans and perfumes, she was once known as a poor little rich girl. At first, Gloria's mother wanted custody of Gloria, but she left the child in the United States with servants and went on trips to England and France for months at a time. Then, Gloria's aunt wanted custody to provide Gloria with a more normal childhood. After a long, tiring court case, her aunt finally received custody of Gloria.

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INSTRUCTIONS: In the following paragraphs, draw a line under the Topic Sentence. Remember, the Topic Sentence is not always the first sentence of the paragraph.

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1. In the boot-making industry, an inspector must check at least three things on each boot top. First, each boot top is inspected carefully for its overall shape and stitching quality. Next, the inspector looks for loose threads which he will burn off. Then, the boot top is checked for flaws or bad places in the leather, so no poor-quality boots will be sold to the public. When these three things are checked on each boot top, the inspector's job is completed.

T(6)

2. Membership in a high school pep club takes a willingness to work hard, give time, and show lots of spirit. First, pep club members must be hard workers. While they are expected to keep up with their classwork, they are also expected to make posters for each week's sports activities, decorate the different teams' lockers, make treats for the team members, and learn the cheers that the cheerleaders teach them. Not only does this take hard work, but it also takes lots of time before and after school every week. In addition, spirit is also an important requirement. Members of the pep club must support their teams with enthusiasm at games, pep rallies and during school. Pep club members show lots of spirit and have fun, but they also spend a great deal of time working hard.

T(6)

3. Our bones are amazing structures. They have some special characteristics that greatly help us. First, they are very strong, for they must not break easily. They must be able to withstand the stresses of every day life as well as heroic feats. Also, bones must be very light, so we can easily move. Additionally, they must serve our bodies by producing new red blood cells. In summary, bones must be strong, light, and produce new blood cells for our bodies.

T(6)

4. People read science fiction books for many reasons. Some read science fiction novels to escape from the present; they like to live the story through the use of their imagination. Others read in a relaxed way to find out about new technology because the writers of science fiction novels sometimes invent new technology. Later, scientists duplicate these inventions. Still others read these novels just for enjoyment. In review, reading science fiction novels can help a person escape from her present life, gain new information, or create a pleasant experience.

T(6)

5. Gassing, shooting, and burning were methods the Nazis used to kill six million Jews, Gypsies, and mentally handicapped people during World War II. At first, millions were killed in huge rooms that looked like shower rooms. Instead of water, deadly gas came out of the shower nozzles, and the people in the shower rooms suffocated. Later, many more died when the Nazi soldiers herded them into buildings and burned the buildings down. Still later, others were lined up, shot to death by a firing squad, and buried in mass graves. These mass murders were part of the horror of World War II.

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TOPIC SENTENCES

Lesson 1C

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INSTRUCTIONS: In the following paragraphs, draw a line under the Topic Sentence. Remember, the Topic Sentence is not always the first sentence of the paragraph.

T(6)

1. Because of three behaviors, whales are thought to be intelligent creatures. For one thing, whales help each other when in trouble. A group of whales will hold a sick whale at the surface of the water, so it can breathe. Second, whales can learn tricks by imitating others, and they can make up their own tricks. Third, they can tell what material something is made of without touching or seeing it. These behaviors show that whales' large brains are used for more than basic survival.

T(6)

2. Penguins are known for their "tuxedo" colors and funny waddling walk. As a group, penguins have some interesting habits concerning the way they live, eat, and raise their young. First, they live mainly in the water and stay at sea for weeks at a time. Also, they like to eat fish, squids, and crustaceans. In addition, they make their nests on land, and, while sitting on their eggs, they eat no food. Furthermore, half-grown penguins are grouped together; they are tended by a few parents as if they were in "kindergarten." Indeed, penguins are intriguing characters.

T(6)

3. For centuries, stories in the Bible have taught people how to act, live by example, and treat each other. For example, the story of Adam and Eve reminds us to say "No" when others tempt us to do something wrong. Another example is the story of Moses which shows us how to ask for help when we feel a task is too much for us. A further example is the story of Samson. This story shows us that a person who treats others harshly will be treated harshly in turn. These timeless stories apply to everyone's life and are the basis of religious education in many lands.

T(6)

4. Amnesia, a loss of memory, has several causes. In the first place, it can be caused by a blow to the head or by a severe emotional shock. In the second place, it can also be caused by drug or alcohol abuse. Finally, it can be caused by illness, or amnesia can be induced by the use of anesthesia during surgery. Whatever the cause, amnesia can be a frightening experience because the person who has amnesia forgets most personal memories for weeks, months, or even years.

T(6)

5. John D. Rockefeller was one of the founders of the oil business. In the 1860s, when he noticed the first oil wells being dug in Pennsylvania, he built an oil refinery. Later, his business became known as the Standard Oil Company, and his company dominated the oil industry in the United States. Standard Oil became the first great U.S. business trust, and Rockefeller became a very wealthy man. He gave his money to many worthy causes and financed the founding of the University of Chicago and the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research. Even today, through the Rockefeller Foundation, his millions of dollars support many research and development projects. Thus, though Rockefeller has been dead for many years, his earnings continue to do "good deeds."

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INSTRUCTIONS: In the following paragraphs, draw a line under the Topic Sentence. Remember, the Topic Sentence is not always the first sentence of the paragraph.

T(6)

1. Horses are a favorite animal used by humans for hundreds of years. There are three types of horses. The original horse was a wild horse; few horses of this type are living now. Today, the only true wild horses are zebras, wild asses, and Mongolian wild horses. In contrast, domestic horses are those that have changed over time because of selective breeding and training, and these domestic horses are tame. Domestic horses that have escaped or been set free are called feral horses. Thus, the horse family consists of wild horses, domestic horses, and feral horses.

T(6)

2. Auditory and visual activities can aid in raising a bright child. All a parent needs is a little time, energy, and creativity. One activity that is useful in making children smarter is reading to them when they are young. Another activity is talking to children about the world. An additional way to help children is to provide lots of different sounds, sights, and experiences. For example, parents can take their children on walks around the neighborhood, to parks, to the local fire station, and to the library. Parents can provide all of these activities without much effort.

T(6)

3. Pablo Picasso was the most influential artist of the 20th Century. He was a painter, sculptor, printmaker, and stage designer. At the age of nine, Picasso began to draw, and later he attended several schools of fine arts. As an adult, he developed a style of painting called "Cubism." Because he hated war, many of Picasso's works centered on the theme of war and peace. In conclusion, Picasso's contributions to the art world are staggering; they appear in museums throughout the world.

T(6)

4. Snakes' bodies may look like long tails, but they really contain the same equipment that human bodies do. For example, they have a backbone, a heart, lungs, a stomach, kidneys, a liver, and a gall bladder. Another example is that they can have as many as 500 vertebrae in their backbones while humans have only 32 or 33. A further example is that snakes have more muscles than most other animals because they have no arms and legs with which to move. They use their muscular bodies to squirm along the ground, and some snakes use their bodies to squeeze their prey to death. In summary, no one would guess that all these parts are contained in a thin snake's body.

T(6)

5. Charles Darwin lived an interesting life as an explorer, writer, and evolutionist. From the age of eight, he was reared by his sister. Later, after he developed an interest in natural history, Darwin sailed on the boat "Beagle" for five years, exploring the wildlife of South America and some Pacific islands. Still later, Darwin returned to England, and he worked 20 years more before he began to write. He is best known for his theory of evolution, which describes man as evolving from lower forms of animals. Unfortunately, during his later years, Darwin suffered from Chagas' Disease. He died in 1882, but his theories and work continue to thrive.

Total