

Name _____ Date _____

Read this paragraph. It is missing a topic sentence.

One time we went to the museum. I learned a lot that day. Another time, we went to a play. It was about a man named Henry. My favorite was our visit to the zoo. I loved seeing all the different animals. Field trips are fun.

Which of the following sentences would be the BEST topic sentence for the paragraph?

- A. My class needs to take a field trip.
- B. I wish we could go on some field trips.
- C. My class has taken many field trips.
- D. My teacher likes to visit animals.

Read the passage and answer the following question(s). This passage may contain errors.

My Favorite Restaurant

My favorite restaurant is called Miguel's. It is a Mexican restaurant. The restaurant is close to my house. It is my favorite because the food is very good. The people that work there are nice. I also like the music they play. I always order the same food, two tacos with beans and rice. The last time we went to Miguel's, my sister spilled her water. I hope that we get to go back soon.

Which of the following sentences is the topic sentence from "My Favorite Restaurant"?

- A. My favorite restaurant is called Miguel's.
- B. I hope that we get to go back soon.
- C. It is a Mexican restaurant.
- D. The restaurant is close to my house.

Read the passage and answer the following question(s).

Earth

Earth is very different from the rest of the planets in our solar system. Our solar system contains four inner planets and four outer planets. The inner planets are Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars. The outer planets are Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune. Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune are often called the "gaseous planets" because they are mostly made of gases. The inner planets are often called the "rocky planets." Earth is the largest of the four inner planets. It is also the third planet from the Sun.

Earth is often called the "Water Planet." This is because it is the only planet which has water in its liquid form on its surface. About 70% of the surface of Earth is covered by water. The rest of the Earth is made of landforms.

Earth spins very quickly compared to other planets. It only takes Earth 23 hours and 56 minutes to spin around its axis one time. One Earth day is nearly 24 hours long. Earth orbits the sun in 365 days. This makes one Earth year 365 days long. In comparison, it takes Mars 24 hours and 36 minutes to spin around its axis one time. A Martian year is 670 days long.

Which sentence is the BEST topic sentence for the passage?

- A. Earth is very different from the rest of the planets in our solar system.
- B. Earth is often called the "Water Planet."
- C. Our solar system contains four inner planets and five outer planets.
- D. Earth spins very quickly compared to other planets.

Read the passage and answer the following question(s).

Theme Parks

Theme parks are a great place to visit. They have many different rides. Some of the rides are fast and some are scary. If you get tired, you can find somewhere relaxing to rest. You can rest on a bench or a nice patch of grass. When you get hungry, there are many places to eat. You can choose food such as pizza and hamburgers. After you eat, you can get in line for another ride. At the end of the day, you will be happy because you had a fun time.

Which of the following sentences would make the BEST topic sentence for the passage?

- A. Disneyland is the best theme park of all.
- B. If you want to have a fun day outside, then you should visit a theme park.
- C. Pizza would be the best choice for lunch at a theme park.
- D. The scariest rides will make your day.

Read the passage and answer the following question(s).

Owning A Dog

Dogs need to be loved and cared for. They love to be played with and taken care of. Dogs also love to run around, chew on bones, and sleep in the warm sun. Dogs are not always easy though. They need to be fed every day and they need lots of attention. They also need someone to clean up after them and bathe them when they are dirty. Dogs are so much fun, but remember that they need lots of care.

Which sentence would make the BEST topic sentence for the passage?

- A. Dogs chew on bones and make messes.
- B. I love my dog because he is a lot of fun.
- C. Dogs are great pets to have.
- D. Pets are a big responsibility.

Read the passage and answer the following question(s).

Ice Cream

Rebecca loves to eat ice cream. She would eat it after every meal. Her favorite flavor is vanilla. Rebecca got an ice cream maker for her birthday. Now she makes ice cream for all of her friends.

Rebecca has to go to the dentist! She ate too much ice cream.

What is the topic sentence for this passage?

- A. Rebecca got an ice cream maker for her birthday.
- B. Rebecca has to go to the dentist.
- C. Rebecca loves to eat ice cream.
- D. Now she makes ice cream for all of her friends.

For a paragraph about wild zebras in Africa, which of the following would be the BEST topic sentence?

- A. Zebras can be found in zoos all over the world.
- B. Many types of zebras live on the plains of Africa.
- C. Every zebra has a unique stripe pattern.
- D. Zebras look much like horses.

For a paragraph about sea horses, which of the following would be the BEST topic sentence?

- A. Sea horses curl their tails around seaweed.
- B. Sea horses have fins.
- C. Male sea horses carry the eggs in their pouch.
- D. Sea horses are interesting creatures.

Which of the following sentences would make the BEST topic sentence for a paragraph about the solar system?

- A. The sun and planets make up our solar system.
- B. Mars and Venus are the planets closest to Earth.
- C. Pluto was once thought to be a planet in our solar system.
- D. Would you like to take a trip to Mars?

Which of the following sentences would make the BEST topic sentence for a paragraph about Native Americans in California?

- A. If you were a Native American, would you like to live in the forests, along the coast, or in the deserts of California?
- B. Native Americans in California found ways to survive in many different habitats.
- C. Some built totem poles and lived in homes made of wood.
- D. Acorns could be ground into a paste using stones.

Which of the following sentences would be the BEST topic sentence for a paragraph about whales?

- A. Have you seen Shamu?
- B. Blue whales are the largest animals on earth.
- C. Some whales have baleen instead of teeth.
- D. Whales are mammals that live in the ocean.

Read the following draft of a paragraph. It is missing a topic sentence.

Everyone eats a lot of candy and popcorn. Usually, everyone stays up until 1:00 in the morning telling scary ghost stories. After the party is over, most kids go home and fall asleep.

Which of the following sentences would be the BEST topic sentence for the paragraph?

- A. Scary stories can give you nightmares.
- B. Slumber parties are a lot of fun.
- C. Sleeping is not fun at slumber parties.
- D. Slumber parties are always boring.

Read the following draft of a paragraph. It is missing a topic sentence.

He would slowly slither over to the strawberry plant to eat the yummy leaves. Later, he would go by the cherry tree and nibble on the cherries that fell to the ground. By the time Howard got home, he was so hungry he'd eat the grass in his backyard.

Which of the following sentences would be the BEST topic sentence for the paragraph?

- A. Howard was a very slow snail.
- B. Howard, the snail, loved to eat.
- C. Fruits are good for you.
- D. Howard likes to move around in the backyard.

Read the following draft of a paragraph. It is missing a topic sentence.

Where could his shoes be? He looked under his bed, but only found an old peanut butter and jelly sandwich. Jeremy looked in his dark closet, but only found his dirty pair of jeans. Where could they be? Jeremy suddenly remembered. His shoes were still on his feet.

Which of the following sentences would be the BEST topic sentence for the paragraph?

- A. Jeremy loves his new shoes.
- B. Jeremy found his shoes.
- C. Jeremy could not find his shoes.
- D. Jeremy has misplaced several things.

Read the following draft of a paragraph. It is missing a topic sentence.

Most octopuses live on the ocean floor. Some octopuses live in rocky areas. Others like muddy bottoms. Some find already made shelters, such as empty bottles.

Which of the following sentences would be the BEST topic sentence for the paragraph?

- A. Octopuses live in deep and shallow seas all over the earth.
- B. Octopuses are scary animals.
- C. Octopuses live in water.
- D. Octopuses squirt out ink when they are threatened.

Read the following draft of a paragraph. It is missing a topic sentence.

The keeper cleans the habitat where the animals live. They also serve meals. Everyday, the zoo keeper observes the animals and looks for any changes in the animal's behavior or health.

Which of the following sentences would be the BEST topic sentence for the paragraph?

- A. Animal keepers care for many different animals at the zoo.
- B. Cleaning the animal's habitat is very important.
- C. Zoo keepers have a dangerous job.
- D. Animal's behaviors change quite often.

Read this draft of a paragraph. It is missing a topic sentence.

Alfred always knew when Berta, the cat, came into the kitchen to drink her milk. At exactly 2:00 in the afternoon, Berta came running in after playing in the backyard with a ball of yarn. Alfred always hid under the kitchen stool until Berta left. Then, he would run up on the counter and eat all the bread crumbs.

Which of the following sentences would be the BEST topic sentence for the paragraph?

- A. Alfred was afraid of the cat.
- B. The cat loves to play in the backyard.
- C. Alfred and the cat were good friends.
- D. Alfred was a very smart mouse.

Read the paragraph below:

The first thing they did to make spaghetti was boil a big pot of water. While that was boiling, Sarah put the meat in the pan. After the meat was cooked, Sarah's mom put the noodles in the boiling water and poured the tomato sauce over the meat. After Sarah's mom drained the noodles, she poured the meat and sauce over the noodles. Finally, the spaghetti was ready to eat.

Which of the following sentences would be the BEST topic sentence for the paragraph?

- A. Sarah's mom did not want her to touch the hot pot of water.
- B. Sarah's mom taught her how to make spaghetti.
- C. Spaghetti is hard to make.

Read the paragraph below:

Where did her tooth go? She looked for her tooth under the couch. It wasn't there. Jamie asked her brother if he saw the tooth she lost, but he did not. Of course! She remembered. Her tooth was already under her pillow, exactly where she put it.

Which of the following sentences would be the BEST topic sentence for the paragraph?

- A. Jamie got \$2.00 under her pillow.
- B. Jamie's brother hid her tooth.
- C. Jamie isn't very smart.
- D. Jamie had lost her tooth that came out this morning.

Read the passage and answer the following question(s).

Tortoise and Turtle

Did you know that a tortoise is not a turtle? Tortoises spend the majority of their time on land. They visit bodies of water only to drink or bathe. In contrast, turtles live in water all the time. Many people have pet turtles. People feed them apples, grapes, beans, and corn. Surprisingly, they even eat spinach! But, you may wonder, how exactly do turtles eat?

Did you know that turtles don't have teeth? Some people think they do. Instead, turtles have beaks for biting. Baby turtles have an egg-tooth, which is like a scale. Baby turtles use this scale for eating. The scale goes away when the turtle is still young.

As they age, both turtles and tortoises can become very large. The largest tortoise living today is in a zoo. It weighs in at an incredible 882 pounds! There is a tortoise in the wild that weighs 672 pounds. Both of these big creatures are island tortoises. Interestingly, the biggest turtle living today is not a tortoise. It is a sea turtle that is six feet long. It weighs a whopping 1,300 pounds! Even though we imagine that turtles are smaller than tortoises, turtles can actually be much bigger than their shelled relatives.

Which sentence is the topic sentence for the passage?

- A. Did you know that a tortoise is not a turtle?
- B. Many people have pet turtles.
- C. As they age, both turtles and tortoises can become very large.
- D. Tortoises spend the majority of their time on land.

Read the paragraph below:

First, I have three silver sharks that are about three inches long. I also have eight frogs. The frogs like to swim around towards the bottom of the aquarium. I have an algae eater, too. He devours all of the algae and debris on the bottom of the aquarium. My favorite fish are my clown fish. I have four of them. They each have orange and white stripes. I also have three goldfish. Their eyes look like they are bulging out of their head! I enjoy watching the different kinds of fish in my aquarium.

Which of the following sentences would be the BEST topic sentence for the paragraph?

- A. I have a fish aquarium with several different species of fish.
- B. My favorite fish are my clown fish.
- C. I like my fish aquarium.
- D. My fish aquarium has a lot of fish in it.

Read the paragraph below:

I am interested in archaeology because dinosaurs intrigue me. I went to a museum one time and there was a model of a dinosaur that archeologists found. The bones were real! I think it would be fascinating to uncover bones of animals from ancient times. I will need to go to college to get my degree so that I can be an archeologist. What a great career that would be!

Which of the following sentences would be the BEST topic sentence for the paragraph?

- A. I want to be an archaeologist when I grow up.
- B. Dinosaurs are interesting animals.
- C. I can't wait to go to college to get my degree.
- D. I want to uncover animal bones.

Read the paragraph below:

I have a mom and dad, a big sister, a big brother, a twin sister, and a baby brother. I have to share a room with my twin sister and sometimes we get into fights. My older brother and sister are fun to hang out with because they drive me to get ice cream! My baby brother is really fun to play with because he laughs all the time. I have a great family and I love them.

Which of the following sentences would be the BEST topic sentence for the paragraph?

- A. I don't like having a twin sister.
- B. I have a big family that I love very much.
- C. It is fun to get ice cream with my older brother and sister.
- D. There are seven people in my family.

Read the paragraph below:

It was fun to sleep in a tent because I could hear all of the animals at night. The top of the tent looked like a screen so we could see all of the stars. We made all of our meals using our camping stove. We had to fill up a bucket with water to wash the dishes. At night we roasted marshmallows on the campfire. During the day we took small hikes down into the canyon. We also rode our bikes around the campground. I can't wait until I go camping again.

Which of the following sentences would be the BEST topic sentence for the paragraph?

- A. Last summer, I went camping with my family at the Grand Canyon.
- B. I like camping.
- C. I like the Grand Canyon.
- D. I went hiking at the Grand Canyon.

Read the paragraph below:

Sometimes I pack a lunch and eat it at the beach. Other times I pick up McDonalds. The first thing I do when I get to the beach is lay out my beach towel and set up my beach umbrella. Then I get my boogie board and go in the water. It is fun to ride the waves into the shore. Sometimes the water tosses me around but I get back up and ride another wave. Sometimes I play in the sand and build sand castles. When I get tired of being in the sun I go home. I love the beach.

Which of the following sentences would be the BEST topic sentence for the paragraph?

- A. It is fun to ride the waves with my boogie board.
- B. I like to go to the beach during the summer.
- C. When I go to the beach I eat McDonalds for lunch.
- D. I like to build sand castles at the beach.

Read the paragraph below:

Our uniforms are black with white stripes. We have a game every Saturday. I scored a goal during the first game. The position that I play is center forward. I enjoy this position because I am able to run all over the field. Other positions have to remain in their zone. I have played goalie before but I don't like it as much. When you are the goalie you have to wait for the ball to come your direction. At the end of each game the team goes to get pizza. I enjoy being part of a soccer team.

Which of the following sentences would be the BEST topic sentence for the paragraph?

- A. I scored a goal during the first game.
- B. I run a lot during my soccer games.
- C. I play on a soccer team named the Zebras.
- D. My soccer team gets pizza after every game.

Read the following draft of a paragraph written by a student:

It is very exciting to see the Shamu show, and we always get soaked when we sit in the Soak Zone. The sharks, sting rays, and flamingos are also fascinating to watch. I always enjoy feeding the dolphins. One day I would like to swim with them. We usually eat lunch near the Clydesdale horses. I always look forward to these family trips to Sea World.

This paragraph is missing a topic sentence. Which of the following sentences would be the BEST topic sentence for the paragraph?

- A. I enjoy many shows and attractions when I visit Sea World with my family.
- B. I like to see the Shamu show because I get soaked.
- C. I love sea animals.
- D. I like to eat when I go to Sea World with my family.

Read this first draft of a paragraph:

I like to learn new things because my teacher makes it fun. We learn reading, writing, math, science, and social studies. I am always learning something new. Recently, I learned how to do multiplication. My teacher put shaving cream on our desks and we wrote multiplication problems in the shaving cream. That was a lot of fun! In science I learned about solids, liquids, and gases. We do a lot of science experiments. I enjoy school because I learn new things in exciting ways!

This paragraph is missing a topic sentence. Which of the following sentences would be the BEST topic sentence for the paragraph?

- A. I like to do science experiments at school.
- B. I like to go to school because I learn something new every day.
- C. My school is fun because we play every day.
- D. My teacher is great.

Read the following draft of a paragraph written by a student:

My cat, named Tiger, is a black cat with orange stripes. I like to throw a ball of yarn and watch him chase it. I have a dog that I play Frisbee with. I toss the Frisbee and he jumps in the air to catch it. I also have a fish tank with many different colored fish. My favorite pet is my rabbit named Fluffy. I like to chase her as she hops all around the house. I love to play with all of my pets!

This paragraph is missing a topic sentence. Which of the following sentences would be the BEST topic sentence for the paragraph?

- A. I love animals because I can take care of them.
- B. My fish tank has a lot of fish.
- C. I have a lot of pets that I love to play with.
- D. My favorite pet is my rabbit.

Read the following draft of a paragraph written by a student.

Disneyland is fun. My three favorite rides are Splash Mountain, Space Mountain, and Star Wars. Splash Mountain is fun because you always get wet. Space Mountain is really fast and exciting because it is dark and you can't see where you are going. Star Wars has amazing special effects. I can't wait to ride the rides at Disneyland again!

The topic sentence is underlined. Which of the following sentences would be the BEST topic sentence for the paragraph?

- A. I went to Disneyland.
- B. Disneyland is fun with my family.
- C. I always get wet on Splash Mountain.
- D. The rides at Disneyland are fun and exciting.

Read the following draft of a paragraph. It is missing a topic sentence.

Scientists say that a disease could be causing the bees to disappear. Another cause of their disappearance may be the chemicals that farmers use to get rid of unwanted insects on crops.

Which of the following sentences would be the BEST topic sentence for the paragraph?

- A. More than one-fourth of the honey bees in the United States have disappeared, and scientists are trying to figure out why.
- B. It is important to be careful around bees, because they can possibly harm you.
- C. Entomologists are scientists who study bees and other insects.
- D. As they feed, honeybees spread pollen from flower to flower.