**2. Topic Sentence**

Every good paragraph has a topic sentence which clearly states the topic and the controlling idea of the paragraph. It is a complete thought. It is usually but not always the first sentence in a paragraph.

The topic sentence is the most general statement in the paragraph. It briefly indicates what the paragraph is going to discuss. It is helpful to guide both the writer and reader. The writer can see what information to include and what information to exclude.

There are three important points to remember about a topic sentence.

1. A topic sentence is a complete sentence. It contains a subject, a verb, and complement.

The following are not good topic sentences:

**Eg:** - Driving on free ways.

* The importance of gold.
* How to register for college classes?

1. A topic sentence contains both a topic and a controlling idea. It names the topic and limit it

to a specific area for discussion in the space of a paragraph. In other words, the topic names the topic while the controlling idea makes a specific comment about the topic, which indicates what the rest of the paragraph will say about the topic. The following examples state both the topic and the controlling idea.

**Eg**: - Driving on free ways requires skill and alertness.

* Gold is prized for two important characteristics.
* Registering for college classes can be frustrating experience for new students.

1. The topic sentence is the most general statement in the paragraph because it gives only the main idea. A topic sentence should be neither too general nor too specific. If it is too general, the reader cannot tell exactly what the paragraph is going to discuss. If it is too specific, the writer may not have anything left to write about in the rest of the paragraph. It does not give any specific details.

**Eg:** The Arabic origin of many English words is not obvious. (Too general).

The topic sentence can be the first or the last sentence in a paragraph.