**Topic Sentences**

**Thesis Statement**

Your thesis statement is the main point of your paper. I frame my thesis statement in a particular manner. I think to myself,

**In this paper, I intend to prove the following:**

The single complete sentence that I would put after that colon is the **thesis statement**. Remember that you don’t need the sentence that I use to frame my thesis statement in the paper. Just think it to yourself or type it out and then erase it.

**Topic Sentences**

In order to convince your reader that what you’re saying is completely true, you need to have support. Pick three reasons that prove your thesis. Write one complete sentence for each reason. Now you have your **topic sentences**. I think to myself,

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is true because of \_\_\_\_\_\_.**

To stay on track, make sure that each topic sentence directly proves your thesis statement.

**Supporting Details**

Your topic sentences won’t prove your thesis statement unless it is obvious that each statement is true. Write your supporting details down so that every sentence in the paragraph proves the topic sentence for that paragraph. **The topic sentences in turn prove the thesis statement.**

**What if my paper isn’t an argumentative paper?**

In the above examples, I use terminology appropriate for an argumentative paper, but you can use this basic structure for any type of paper. If you want to explain the process of completing a particular task, for example, the task should be in the thesis statement, and the steps should be your topic sentences. In the end, your topic sentences are still supporting your thesis statement.