

Choose the Best Topic Sentence

Name _____

Date _____

Each paragraph is missing its topic sentence. The best one names the topic and covers every detail, not just one.

- A** Read the paragraph. Fill in the circle beside the best topic sentence for it. Then write that sentence on the line.

They can sniff out people who are lost in the woods. They can guide people who cannot see. Some even learn to warn their owners before they get sick.

1. ☐ Dogs have a strong sense of smell.
☐ Dogs can learn to do important jobs.
☐ Pets are fun to have.

Start by filling a pot with soil. Next, push a bean seed about an inch down. Then water the soil and set the pot in a sunny window. In about a week, a green shoot will pop up.

2. ☐ Growing a bean plant is easy if you follow a few steps.
☐ All plants need sunlight.
☐ A bean shoot is green.

In 1903, the Wright brothers' first flight lasted only 12 seconds. Today, jets carry hundreds of people across an ocean in a few hours. Some planes can even fly faster than sound.

3. ☐ There are many ways to travel.
☐ The Wright brothers built their plane in a bicycle shop.
☐ Airplanes have changed a great deal since the first flight.

At recess we race across the monkey bars. In class we trade books and help each other with hard math problems. After school she comes over to shoot baskets in my driveway.

4. ☐ Maya is good at math.
☐ Maya and I do almost everything together.
☐ School is a busy place.

Choose the Best Topic Sentence: Answer Key

The best topic sentence is marked and written in. The other two are too narrow (one detail) or too broad.

- A** Read the paragraph. Fill in the circle beside the best topic sentence for it. Then write that sentence on the line.

Dogs can learn to do important jobs. They can sniff out people who are lost in the woods. They can guide people who cannot see. Some even learn to warn their owners before they get sick.

1. ☐ Dogs have a strong sense of smell.
☒ **Dogs can learn to do important jobs.**
☐ Pets are fun to have.

Growing a bean plant is easy if you follow a few steps. Start by filling a pot with soil. Next, push a bean seed about an inch down. Then water the soil and set the pot in a sunny window. In about a week, a green shoot will pop up.

2. ☒ **Growing a bean plant is easy if you follow a few steps.**
☐ All plants need sunlight.
☐ A bean shoot is green.

Airplanes have changed a great deal since the first flight. In 1903, the Wright brothers' first flight lasted only 12 seconds. Today, jets carry hundreds of people across an ocean in a few hours. Some planes can even fly faster than sound.

3. ☐ There are many ways to travel.
☐ The Wright brothers built their plane in a bicycle shop.
☒ **Airplanes have changed a great deal since the first flight.**

Maya and I do almost everything together. At recess we race across the monkey bars. In class we trade books and help each other with hard math problems. After school she comes over to shoot baskets in my driveway.

4. ☐ Maya is good at math.
☒ **Maya and I do almost everything together.**
☐ School is a busy place.