Topic Sentences

Purpose:

* Make an essay’s claim clear to a reader
* Reveal the main point of a paragraph
* Show the relationship of a paragraph to the thesis
* Tell the reader what to expect from the paragraph

Writing Topic Sentences:

* No set formula
* Vary the form of your topic sentences
* Repeated too often, any method grows tiresome
* Forms
  + Simple sentences
    - States the claim of the thesis and the reason directly
    - Uses different phrasing than the thesis itself
    - Ex
      * Thesis = The reader grows weary because of the author’s diction, repetition, and metaphor
      * Topic Sent. = The passage’s word choice causes the reader to get restless.
  + Complex sentences
    - Combine with a transition (old to new) from the previous paragraph
    - Contains subordinate and independent clauses
    - Ex
      * Thesis = The painting captures the moods of the time period with its ordinariness, strength, and movement.
      * Topic Sent. = Although the painting describes an unknown woman at an ordinary task, the painter adds his own sense of realism to strengthen it.

Now you try! (Worksheet to be provided)