A topic sentence is essentially a tiny thesis statement. They both accomplish the same thing. While your thesis tells the reader what your ENTIRE ESSAY is about, the TOPIC SENTENCES tells the reader what the ENTIRE PARAGRAPH is about.

**TOPIC SENTENCE = Subject + your opinion (commentary).**

* Everything in your paragraph will then support your topic sentence.
* Make sure your topic sentence is not too general or too specific. It should be general enough to show the paragraph’s main idea instead of just one of the details.

Let’s Practice!

Which Topic Sentence would be the most effective for this paragraph?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. What gives them the right to say that? I’m not saying it’s all right to be seven hundred pounds and the only way of getting out of your home is by knocking down a wall and craning you out, but why is it wrong to be a healthy, yet more voluptuous, woman? Every commercial and television show displays girls that are no bigger than a size 2 and then they have one bigger girl on the show that hates the world and, of course, she’s extremely unpopular.

A. Being skinny is beautiful.

B. The media say being overweight is ugly.

C. Comparing women in the media is unjust.

Please explain your answer:

­­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. After all, only an idiot would open the door to a gnarly, creepy old woman in a black cape and actually buy apples from her, especially if she gives you a hint they're enchanted. And when she falls into a death-like coma, who wakes Snowy up? You got it … another predictable, face-sucking prince.

A. Fairy Tales are sexist and completely archaic.

B. The fairy tale depicts women as beauty-crazed fanatics in desperate need of male protection.

C. You can add “vulnerable” and “idiotic” to the list of negative traits fairy tales attribute to women.

Please explain your answer:

Please write your own topic sentence for this paragraph:

TS:

Too often are minorities portrayed as the villains, and women as sex objects. Perhaps a consequence of the demographics TV movie producers and executives are hoping to capture, or an indifference to everything but the bottom line -- as it’s commonly said that “sex and violence sells” -- but racism, sexism, and the exploitation of females is still pervasive in today’s media and society.

TS:

If these types of stereotypes and "sexploitation" weren't attracting audiences, and consequently profits, they wouldn't be as lucrative in the industry. The faith of television programs is ultimately determined by Nielsen ratings -- this data "provide the basis for allocating advertising dollars, as well as criteria for deciding the particular mix of content to provide" (Napoli 32.) If a certain formula has proven profitable and successful with audiences in the past, regardless of any hints of discrimination or racism in the content, it will continue to be used until audiences demand change. As advertises demand for a specific demographic, it "systematically shapes the content that media organizations provide" (Napoli 26). Ultimately, it's more of an indifference to everything except producing profitable content.

When everyone in your group is finished, please share your topic sentences with them. As a group, decide which TS is the most effective (or rewrite one) for both paragraphs. Each group will present your two topic sentences. You can write them in the space below.