THE PARTS OF A PARAGRAPH
TOPIC SENTENCE

• What is it?
  – The first sentence in a paragraph

• What does it do?
  – It introduces the main idea of the paragraph

• How do I write one?
  – Summarize the main idea of the paragraph
• What are supporting details?
  – They come after the topic sentence
  – They make up the body of the paragraph
• What do they do?
  – They give **details and support** the main idea
• How do I write them?
  – Give supporting facts, details, and examples
CONCLUDING SENTENCE

• What is it?
  – The last sentence in a paragraph

• What does it do?
  – It restates the main idea

• How do I write one?
  – Restate the main idea but using different words
  – The closing sentence should be very similar to the topic sentence.
HOW LONG IS A PARAGRAPH?

- 5-6 sentences in total
- 1 Topic sentence
- 1 Concluding sentence
- 3-4 sentences of supporting details
Topic Sentences
What is a Topic Sentence?

- A topic sentence is often, but not always, the first sentence in a paragraph.

- It tells us the MAIN IDEA of the paragraph.

- It also tells us what the author wants to SAY ABOUT the topic.
Parts of a Topic Sentence

- A topic sentence tells what the main idea of the paragraph will be.
  - We will call this the “subject / topic” of the paragraph.

- A topic sentence tells what the author is going to say about the subject.
  - We will call this the “controlling idea” of the paragraph.
Putting the parts together

- **SUBJECT** + **CONTROLLING IDEA**

- The invention of the light bulb
  - (subject)

- changed the world in many ways
  - (controlling idea)

- The invention of the light bulb changed the world in many ways.
Example

- “A rabbit is different from other animals because of three unique characteristics.”

- The subject is “rabbit”
- The controlling idea is “characteristics”
• There are two ways to make ice cream at home.

• The subject is “making ice cream.”

• The controlling idea is “two ways to make it.”
He collects books that were written over a hundred years ago. But he is also interested in the best sellers of today. If I ever need to get him a present, I know I can always please him by buying him a book.

Which of the following topic sentences is the best one for the above paragraph?

- A. Reading is fun.
- B. Books are my father’s hobby.
- C. My father was a main influence in my life.
The most beautiful flower is the rose because it comes in so many different colors. Another beautiful flower is the daisy which sometimes grows wild. Spring flowers like tulips, daffodils, and crocuses are also very pretty.

Which of the following topic sentences is the best one for the above paragraph?

⇒ A. Don’t you just love spring?
⇒ B. The rose is the most loved flower the world over.
⇒ C. There are many lovely flowers to consider for your garden.
Let’s review............
PARTS OF A PARAGRAPH

- **Topic Sentence**
- **Supporting sentence 1**
- **Supporting sentence 2**
- **Supporting sentence 3**
- **Concluding Sentence**

**Topic Sentence**
- Contains the **topic** and the **controlling idea** of the paragraph.

**Supporting sentences**
- Ideas (with explanations, examples, and details) which support and develop the **controlling idea**.

**Concluding Sentence**
- Contains a **restatement of the topic sentence**.