

SUPPLEMENTAL LESSONS

**English Grade 8
2nd Quarter**



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2nd Quarter Grade 8 Supplemental Lesson Plan

Lesson 2

Focus: Identify positions of a topic sentence

A. Introduction/Preparatory Activities

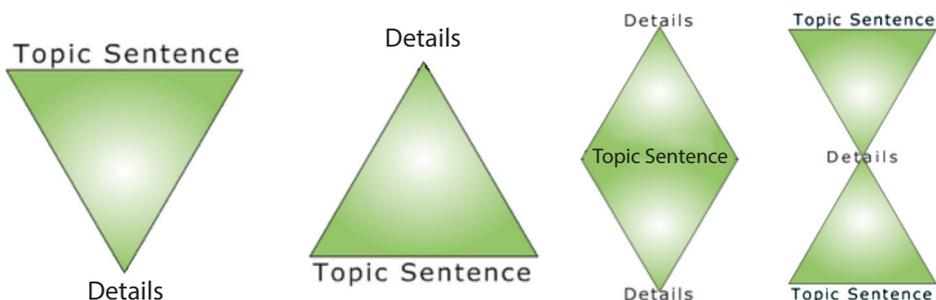
1. Ask the students to read the passage below.

Constructing a wedding cake is a complicated process. Before any baking takes place, the size of the cake and the decorative design to be used must be determined. Then the layers are baked. On a large cake, the bottom layers may be as much as 16 inches in diameter. Because of their size, these layers must be baked one at a time, a process which may actually take an entire day. Once the layers are cooled, same-size pairs are matched and frosted. Since large wedding cakes are surprisingly heavy, half-inch dowel rods must be measured, cut, and carefully driven into the bottom layers. These wooden posts provide hidden support for the weighty upper layers. When all the layers are set in place, flowers, garlands and leaves of frosting are added. These delicate touches individualize the wedding cake and transform it from merely a cake into a culinary work of art.

2. Ask the students what the paragraph is all about.

B. Body/Developmental Activities

1. Introduce the topic. Discuss the following points:
 - A topic sentence tells you what a paragraph is about. It is the most important sentence in a paragraph.
 - It contains the main idea of a paragraph.
 - The topic sentence may be found at the beginning, middle, final, or both at the beginning and final part of the paragraph.
2. Show the students the following illustrations that will help them to visualize the placement of topic sentence in a paragraph.



3. Ask the students to reread the passage that was given to them earlier and then have them identify the topic sentence and its position.

Answer: Constructing a wedding cake is a complicated process.

Position: Beginning of the paragraph

4. Give the students other examples of paragraphs and have them identify their topic sentences and their positions.

C. Conclusion/Evaluation

1. Have the students answer the exercise below.

Exercise: Identify the topic sentence and draw its placement.

- a. People do it every day. They log on to their favorite website and browse for hours, checking out bargains. They dump every possible wish into their shopping carts, knowing they can cast each one aside before they finalize their purchases. On the way, they may enter a sweepstakes in the hopes of winning a trip to Cabo San Lucas, or maybe even a new SUV. And then, when they have decided on their purchases, they enter their private information without giving it a thought. With a keystroke, they release their personal data into what may or may not be a secure zone. Despite what much of the public believes, internet shopping is not safe.
- b. When a camera flash is used in a low-light environment, the subject's eyes may appear red in the finished photograph. What is known as "red-eye" is the result of light from the flash reflecting off the pupils of the eyes. The phenomenon of red-eye can be lessened by using the red-eye reduction feature found on many SLR cameras. This feature activates a lamp which shines a small light directly into the subject's eyes. When this happens, the diameter of the pupil is reduced, thus tightening the opening in the iris. Since a smaller pupil means a smaller host for the reflection, the chances of red-eye occurring are greatly reduced.
- c. The schoolchildren enjoyed their visit to the zoo. They saw lots of animals from different parts of the world. The first graders particularly liked the animals from Africa. Many were eager to see the elephants and the lions. The children were so amazed to see these creatures up close and not just in a documentary in *Animal Planet*.
- d. Clive Staples Lewis was one of the intellectual giants of the 20th century and arguably one of the most influential writers of his day. He was a fellow and tutor in English Literature at Oxford University until 1954. He was unanimously elected to be the Chair of Medieval and Renaissance Literature at Cambridge University, a position he held until his retirement. He wrote more than thirty books, allowing him to reach a vast audience, and his works continue to attract thousands of new readers every year. His most distinguished and popular accomplishments include *Mere Christianity*, *Out of the Silent Planet*, *The Great Divorce*, *The Screwtape Letters*, and the universally acknowledged classics, *The Chronicles of Narnia*.

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