Thesis Sentences and Topic Sentences

Thesis: a sentence about the essay subject with insightful commentary about it. The thesis is the umbrella statement for the entire essay – all other ideas must "hang" from it. It belongs in the Introduction Paragraph, usually at the end.

Topic Sentence: The topic sentence is the first sentence of a body paragraph. It contains more specific information about the essay subject and commentary about it.

Example: Wearing school uniforms is unfair to students because it limits their personal freedom.

The essay subject:

The opinion (commentary):

Practice: For the thesis sentences below, underline the topic once and the commentary twice.

1. Summer time is unbearable for parents and children.

2. P.E. should be eliminated in favor of more academic coursework.

3. Harry Potter's hat sorting experience set the groundwork for the kind of person he would become: a true Griffindor.

4. In "Freak the Mighty," we see the journey of an unlikely and ultimately transformative friendship.

Review: What are the two parts of a thesis?

_____ and _____ (also called _____).

Practice: Think of some topics you know about. Students have used playing sports, volunteering, and family in the past. Write a topic you know about here:

_____

Here is a sample thesis about the topic volunteering:
Thesis: Volunteering is the best way to forget your own troubles.
The topic:
The opinion (commentary):

Write a thesis using the topic you know about here: _____

Underline the topic once and the opinion (commentary) twice.

Practice: write 4 more topics you know about below. On the back of this paper, write a thesis for each topic. Be sure to underline the topic once and the opinion (commentary) twice.

_____ _____

_____ _____