

**High-Intermediate 3**  
**Unit 3: Writing**  
**Presented by Mohammad Rajabpur**

**Topic Sentence** = the first sentence of a paragraph which usually includes the main idea of that paragraph

The topic sentence consists of two parts: the **topic** and the **controlling idea**

The **topic** is **what the paragraph is about**.

The **controlling idea** is **what the writer thinks about the topic**.

The topic is often too broad to write about; however, the controlling idea narrows it down and limits it to a certain extent.

One good way to limit your topic is using key words as the controlling idea of the topic sentence. These key words can belong to the following categories:

- |          |                 |                |                    |
|----------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| 1. Place | 3. Quality      | 5. Differences | 7. Effect / Result |
| 2. Time  | 4. Similarities | 6. Quantity    | 8. Cause / Reason  |

Examples:

Basketball players get injured more frequently than volleyball players.

**Topic:** Basketball players

**Controlling Idea:** Getting injured more frequently than volleyball players.

In this example, the controlling idea belongs to the category of **differences** and the topic sentence can be used to develop a contrast paragraph.

On rainy days, the number of traffic accidents increases sharply because of slippery roads and low visibility.

**Topic:** The increase in the number of traffic accidents on rainy days

**Controlling Idea:** because of slippery roads and low visibility

In this example, the controlling idea belongs to the category of **cause / reason**.