

Prepositional Topic Sentences

Prepositions are words that relate one word or phrase to another word or phrase; they connect the thoughts within sentences and never stand alone. They often offer details about location, time, sequence, sources, causes and effects, and other relationships. The following list includes some common prepositions:

- According to
- After
- Along with
- Among
- Because of
- Before
- Besides
- Between
- Beyond
- By
- Despite
- Due to
- During
- For
- From
- In
- In addition to
- In case of
- In spite of
- Inside
- Instead of
- Into
- Like
- Near
- Of
- On
- Outside
- Over
- Since
- Through
- Throughout
- To
- Toward
- Under
- Until
- With
- Within
- Without
- With the exception of

In a topic sentence, the prepositional phrase introduces your *occasion*—your reason for writing. The rest of the sentence shares your *position*—what you plan to prove or explain.

Examples

- **Between** the orbits of Mars and Jupiter exists a large asteroid belt.
- **Due to** high pollen counts this summer, asthma sufferers have been advised to remain indoors.
- **Within** 20 years, glaciers will have disappeared from Glacier National Park in Montana **according to** United States Geological Survey scientists.
- **After** the attack **on** Pearl Harbor, the United States had little choice but to enter World War II.
- **Without** additional public funding, state colleges will likely appeal **to** private sources to meet their budgets.
- **In addition to** their larger size, grizzly bears differ **from** black bears **in** other physical characteristics.
- **Before** the Brooklyn Bridge was completed **in** 1883, ferries were the primary transport **between** Manhattan and Brooklyn.