

Turning a Writing Prompt into a Topic Sentence

Step 1 Read the prompt carefully.

Step 2 Look for the key words: the topic, the verb or verbs that directs the writing, the type of text to write, and what specifically to write about. If you may write on the test, highlight or circle the topic and verb. Underline the words that show the type of text you will write and what you will write about.

Step 3 Use the key words from the prompt to help you write the topic sentence. You may not need all of the words that you underlined.

Example Prompt

verb
topic topic
↓ ↓
Compare and **contrast** the audio **recording** of Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous "I Have a Dream" speech with its written **transcript**. Write a paragraph explaining how each medium affects the presentation of the words.

↑ ↑ ↑
topic details to include type of text you will write

Topic Sentence

Even though both the audio recording and written transcript of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech present the same words, each one has different qualities and advantages.

Turn the following prompt into a topic sentence.

Write a paragraph explaining how forces inside and on the surface of the Earth continuously create and change igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks.
