

Writing the Introduction

The Topic Sentence and the Plan

A **topic sentence** tells what the paragraph is about and gives the main idea.

A **plan sentence** gives an indication (either stated or implied) of the key/star ideas in the report or essay.

- A **stated plan sentence** lists the key/star ideas.
- An **implied plan sentence** does not list the key/star ideas and may use clue words.

Example 1 Stated Plan

Sacrifices

Throughout the Civil War, women in both the North and the South made incredible sacrifices. They raised children alone, managed farms, faced their enemies, and gave up cherished family heirlooms.

Example 2 Implied or Subtle Plan

Sacrifices

Throughout the Civil War, women in both the North and the South made incredible sacrifices. Many of these sacrifices went unnoticed.