

# Thesis Statement/Topic Sentences

## Avoiding “There are” and “Things”

*Note to students: Under **NO** circumstances should you **EVER** use “There are” or “things” in your **Thesis Statement**, your **Transitional Topic Sentences**, or to **describe** your main ideas!!!*

- Replace “There are” with the WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE of the idea of your sentence.
  - EX: **There are** many reasons to watch football.  
EX FIX: The excitement is just **one** of many reasons to watch football.
- Replace “Things” with something more specifically related to your topic.
  - EX: **There are** many fun **things** to do on the weekend.  
EX FIX: **Going to the movies, hanging out with friends, and relaxing** are three good ways to spend a weekend.

## Occasion/Position Statements and Prepositional Clause Topic Sentences:

Both of these types of topic sentences are set up the same way. They have a list of STARTER words and they have a comma between the dependent clause (incomplete part of the sentence) at the beginning and the independent clause (complete part of the sentence) at the end. The topic generally starts broad in the dependent clause, and gets more specific in the independent clause. The independent clause is what should SPECIFICALLY introduce the main idea being covered in the answer to the question.

*Popular Starter Words for Occasion/Position and Prepositional Clause Topic Sentences:*

In order that	Even though	As soon as	Since	Before	So that
Whenever	Wherever	As	If	Although	Unless
While	When	Even	As long as	Whether	Until
Where	Though	Even if	Because	As if	After
According to	Along with	As for	Because of	Besides	Beyond
But	By	Despite	Due to	During	For
From	In addition to	In	In case of	In regard to	Into
In spite of	Instead of	Like	Throughout	To	Until
With	With the exception of		Within	Without	

EX: **Because of** advances in technology, life in the world today is much easier than it used to be.

EX: **Unless** someone is a recently thawed caveman, everyone appreciates and needs modern technology.

EX: **In spite of** the benefits technology provides this world, it has created many disadvantages as well.

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## However Statements:

However Statements are 2 complete sentences combined with one of the “however” connector words. With these sentences, the punctuation should look like this:

EX: The Native Americans, African Americans, and immigrants in history were all discriminated against in different ways; **however**, they were all treated as second class citizens.

## However Statement Connector Words:

However	As a result	Consequently	Furthermore	In fact
Instead	Likewise	Meanwhile	Nevertheless	Next
Otherwise	Still	Therefore		

## And, But, Or Statements:

And, But, Or statements are just like however statements, for they are 2 complete sentences combined with the connector word. The punctuation on these sentences is different:

EX: My cat is fat, **for** he likes to eat.

EX: We have used three watercolor techniques in class, **and** they each require a different process.

BOY FANS is an acronym the kids know to remind them of the words they can use for connector words:

But	Or	Yet	For	And	Nor	So
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## Power/Number Statements:

These sentences simply use a “number” word in place of a list of items.

EX: The Indians, Africans, and immigrants were discriminated against in **many** ways throughout history.

EX: To solve a two-step equation the algebraic way, **a number of** rules must be followed.

## Power/Number Words:

Two	Three	Four	Several	Many	Some	A few
Numerous	A couple of	A number of	A myriad (a lot)		Plenty of	Various

## List Statements:

These sentences don’t have specific words that have to be used, for they are simply listing the main ideas of their paragraph instead of saying “many.”

EX: Throughout American history, cultural groups such as **the Indians, the Africans, and other immigrants** were treated as second class citizens.