



## EXERCISES IN TOPIC SENTENCE (Continued)

- G) A topic sentence must be **general** enough to include all the ideas in the paragraph, but **limiting** enough to allow the writer to focus on specifics. That sounds like a contradiction, doesn't it? That is why writing is not an easy task; the writer must decide what is too general or what is too limiting. If the topic sentence is too general, it might be more useful for a longer piece of writing. On the other hand, a topic sentence which is too narrow may lead to a very short paragraph. For each pair of possible topic sentences given below, choose which would be more useful in writing a paragraph.
- There are many interesting shows on television.
    - Television emphasizes too much violence.
  - Collecting stamps is a good activity for people of all ages.
    - Stamps for a collection can be found in the most unlikely places.
  - Quebec City can be a fun place to visit.
    - There are many things to do in Quebec City during its annual Winter Carnival.
  - Basketball is a good sport.
    - Basketball is good exercise.
  - A dog is a pet which every family should own.
    - A dog can be trained to do many tricks.
  - Jurassic Park: The Lost World* is an excellent movie.
    - Jurassic Park: The Lost World* is both exciting and fun to watch.



## EXERCISES IN TOPIC SENTENCE (Continued)

- H) Write a topic sentence which covers all the details which follow. Remember that your topic sentence must be general enough to include all the ideas, but limiting enough to allow the writer to focus on specifics.

TOPIC SENTENCE: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### DETAILS:

1. My hands shook a little as I opened the door of the large, imposing building.
2. I peered inside, not knowing what to expect.
3. As my eyes became more accustomed to the dim light, I saw a room covered in dust and cobwebs.
4. Cobwebs clung to the huge chandelier which hung over the staircase.
5. I closed the door behind me and inched my way to the foot of the stairs.
6. The stairs began to creak as I slowly ascended them, wondering who the last person was to ascend the stairs and whether I would ever come down them again.
7. Then I heard a blood-curdling scream and ran as quickly as I could out of the building.
8. That was the last time I would ever enter that house alone.