

A topic sentence tells the reader what
your paragraph is about.



- A topic sentence is a **general** statement about a **limited** subject.
(what?!)
- A topic sentence expresses an attitude or opinion.

My apartment is a terrible place to live.

How NOT to write a topic sentence

- The *announcement*:

The subject of this paragraph will be my apartment.

- The *too broad* statement:

The places where people live have definite effects on their lives.

- The *too narrow* statement:

I have no hot water in my apartment at night.

Read the choices below.

Which sentence states **the main idea**?

Which ones provide **supporting details**?

- a. If you stop carrying matches or a lighter, you can cut down on impulse smoking.
- b. If you sit in a no-smoking area, you will smoke less.
- c. You can behave in ways that will help you smoke less.
- d. By keeping a record of when and where you smoke, you can identify the most tempting situations and then avoid them.