Topic Sentences are used for the following:

- introduces the topic of a paragraph
- tells the reader what the writer is going to write about
- topic sentences are generally the first sentence of a paragraph
- every paragraph needs one!!!
- states the topic without being "obvious"

EXAMPLE:
This paragraph will discuss why homework is important. **VS.**

Homework is an important part of every student's education.
Supporting Details are:

- SENTENCES that help the writer explain the paragraph's topic in depth
- provide examples, evidence, and other details to help further explain the paragraph's topic
- every paragraph should have at least 3 supporting detail sentences

Example:
1) Assigned homework helps keep students organized.
2) Teachers give students homework to give extra practice.
3) Students should always complete homework because it can help them understand the material taught in class.
Closing Sentences are used to:

- wrap up the points made in the paragraph
- "tie up loose ends"
- give the reader something further to think about
- if another paragraph is going to follow, a concluding sentence can include a transition
- it does not restate your topic sentence

**EX:**
Even though students may complain about doing their homework, all homework assignments are helpful for learning.
A WELL DEVELOPED PARAGRAPH
This hamburger graphic organizer can be used to help you write any type of paragraph.

**Types of Paragraphs:**
1) Introduction Paragraph
2) Body Paragraph
3) Conclusion Paragraph

**Introduction Paragraph:** introduces the topic of the essay and tells the reader all of the main ideas of the essay; no specific examples/evidence. Has topic sentence, supporting detail sentences, and a closing sentence.

**Body Paragraphs:** come after the introduction; there is one paragraph for every main idea mentioned in the introduction. Gives details, examples, and evidence. If there are three main points in the introduction, there should be three body paragraphs! Has topic sentence, supporting detail sentences, and a closing sentence.

**Conclusion Paragraph:** is the last paragraph of the essay; summarizes all of the points made in the whole essay. Should not simply restate the introduction paragraph. Has topic sentence, supporting detail sentences, and a closing sentence.
Notes - Paragraph to Essay

Paragraph
- Topic Sentence
- Supporting Detail Sentence #1
- Supporting Detail Sentence #2
- Supporting Detail Sentence #3
- Closing Sentence

Every paragraph must have all parts!

Types of Paragraphs
- Introduction:
  - Introduce essay topic
  - Says all of essay’s main ideas
  - No specific examples/evidence yet

Body Paragraphs:
- Come after intro.
- 1 paragraph per main idea stated in introduction
- Uses specific details/evidence/examples

Conclusion:
- Last paragraph of essay
- Summarizes all main ideas/points of essay
- Does not simply restate
- Give reader new ideas to consider

Introduction Paragraph
+ Body Paragraph
+ Body Paragraph
+ Body Paragraph

Conclusion Paragraph

= ESSAY
Mrs. Agens' Example:

**Introduction Paragraph--**
1. Homework is an important part of every student's education.
2. Assigned homework helps keep students organized.
3. Teachers give students homework to give extra practice.
4. Students should always complete homework because it can help them understand the material taught in class.
5. Even though students may complain about doing their homework, all homework assignments are helpful for learning.

**Body Paragraph--**
Assigned homework can help keep students organized. One way that homework can help with organization is the use of an agenda, a tool that keeps assignments and due dates in order. Another reason homework helps with organization is that students have to prioritize their time to get their work done by the due date. Finally, in order to successfully complete homework, a student's locker and backpack must be organized and tidy in order to find materials to bring to and from school. For these reasons, it is clear that homework helps students maintain good organization skills.