

Topic Sentences

Fri 1/28/11

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Q: My most pressing question about
PHSCS 416 right now is...

1. ... how to submit assignments
2. ... how to make progress on the writing
3. ... how to keep my research one step ahead of my writing
4. ... how to get an **A** in **416**
5. ... **none** of the above. **Let me tell you what it is!**

(Show with fingers on chest; show fist = I don't know)

Learning Objectives for 416 **Fri 1/28/11**

- Review writing-in-physics rules (hyphens and dashes)
 - Topic sentences!
 - Revised text (So much in astronomy...)
 - Apply to text
 - Go over 200+ text (Dr Van Huele)
 - Go over thesis document including bibliography (Dr Ware)
- ☺ And participation from everybody! ☺**

Hyphens and dashes

(What we learned from today's quiz)

- AIP Style Manual, III A 7 parentheses (page 13)
- Different types of dashes and hyphens (use)
- Can you type them?
- Hyphens for modifiers
- Prefixes: non, multi, step, anti, band vs. self-, half-, -free
- Hyphens with symbols and proper nouns

Q: What is a **topic** sentence?

1. Also known as **focus** sentence
2. It encapsulates and organizes the whole paragraph
3. It is strong and clear (mini thesis statement)
4. It is not too broad
5. It is at or near the beginning of the paragraph
6. Not every paragraph needs a topic sentence

(Hold paragraph space in outline with ... topic sentence)

Q: Find the **topic** sentence!

1. Topic sentences often act like tiny thesis statements.
2. Like a thesis statement, a topic sentence makes a claim of some sort.
3. As the thesis statement is the unifying force in the essay, so the topic sentence must be the unifying force in the paragraph.
4. Further, as is the case with the thesis statement, when the topic sentence makes a claim, the topic which follows must expand, describe, or prove it in some way.
5. Topic sentences make a point and give reasons or examples to support it.

(Dorothy Turner)

(Show with fingers on chest; show fist = I don't know)