

# Support the topic

- Usually the first sentence of the paragraph is the topic sentence.
  - The topic sentence gives the main idea.
- The other sentences in the paragraph are the ***supporting sentences***.
  - Supporting sentences support the topic.
  - They give arguments, details, examples, etc.
  - Most support needs to be facts.

# Types of sentences

- *Questions* ask for information. They don't support a topic (usually).
  - What is the capital of *Guatemala*?
  - Do you know *One Piece*?

# Types of sentences

- *Greetings* mark a relationship between people. They don't support a topic.
  - Hello.
  - Good afternoon.

# Types of sentences

- *Exclamations* or emotional expressions tell how a writer/speaker feels. They don't support a topic.
  - Oh my God!
  - That's great!

# Types of sentences

- *Statements* give information. Some statements are good support for a topic.
  - Statements of *fact* are the best support.
  - Facts can explain the things you know (explanatory writing).
  - Facts can convince people of your arguments (persuasive writing).

# Facts versus opinions

- Facts are objective statements of truth. They are outside the individual, and remain true no matter who says them.
  - Water boils at 100°C.
  - Approximately 127,000,000 people live in Japan.

# Facts versus opinions

- Opinions are subjective statements. They are based on one person's beliefs or feelings.
  - Maccha ice cream is delicious.
  - Students should not be required to take English classes.

# Facts versus opinions

- It is *sometimes* OK to express opinions in academic papers.
- But, topics need to be supported *mostly with facts*.
- Supporting facts should be as specific as possible.



# Types of facts

- Examples

College students do many kinds of part time jobs. *For example, my friend Junichiro works in a restaurant on the weekends.*

# Types of facts

- Statistics

People in Chad, a country in Africa, don't eat much meat. *The average person in Chad eats 14 kg in a year, while the average person in America eats 125 kg per year.*

# Types of facts

- Quotations

Kuwait does not grow its own food. *According to the book Hungry Planet, "Most of the food in this oil-rich but soil-and-water-poor country is imported" (p. 56).*

- Plagiarism: Using other people's words or ideas **without giving credit**. It's considered cheating.

# Use facts

- Support your topic sentence with facts.
- If you include an opinion in your paper, support it with facts.
  - Facts that show why you have that opinion will make it easier to understand.
- Use a mixture of examples, statistics, and quotations.



# Peer revising

- The hardest part of revising is thinking like a reader.
- One solution: Read other people's work, and get them to read yours.

# Peer revising

- Work with your group (all the people who have the same number as you).
- Read someone else's paragraph.
  - Is the topic sentence clear and focused?
  - Is there anything difficult to understand?
  - Is there any information you want to know that wasn't in the paragraph?
  - Don't worry too much about English grammar, spelling or other details.