

Topic Sentence vs. Assertions

Keep topic sentences and assertions separate. Do NOT name your assertions in your topic sentences.

If you do, you will write them _____ which is redundant.

Choosing Persuasive Evidence: Strong, Medium, Weak, or Never?

_____ Facts

_____ Anecdote

_____ Expert Testimony

_____ Examples

_____ Personal Experience

_____ Analogy

_____ Statistics

_____ Observation

_____ Description

_____ Personal Opinion

While some evidence types are weaker than others, that does not mean they are banned. Your own personal experience may make the best evidence in the right context and for the right argument. However, do not use a weak form of evidence when stronger evidence is available.

Do NOT use your own personal opinion, belief, or observation as evidence. Even if your opinion is valid, you must have support from a _____ other than yourself.

Improving Commentary

Commentary is the most _____ and most difficult part of a paragraph to write.

Remember – its purpose is to _____ your argument in your own words.

If you get stuck, consider using an “explaining” words in your sentence.

(See commentary trigger word list on Weebly)

Common Commentary Mistakes

- Repeating/Restating the _____
- Repeating/Restating the _____
- Adding more _____ (with no commentary at all)
- Simply _____, “this evidence proves my point.”

Commentary Must EXPLAIN

- Why did I use this evidence?
- What makes it significant?
- How does the evidence prove my point?
- How does the evidence support/prove my assertion?
- How does this evidence support my paragraph’s topic or essay thesis?
- For which reasons should my reader agree with me?
- Why should my reader believe me or accept my argument as valid?

Concluding Statement

#1 Mistake = _____ the topic sentence.

Write a final, impactful thought that summarizes the point you are trying to prove.