**Topic Sentences:**

**Definition:** A topic sentence:

* Is the first sentence of a body paragraph
* Let the reader know what the paragraph is going to prove

**Example: Together**

1 2

The first scene that paints a negative picture of the relationship between whites and blacks takes place soon after the townspeople learn Atticus is going to try and prove Tom Robinson’s innocence.  
 3

What does this sentence tell us?

1.)Where in the essay is this paragraph? This is the first body paragraph

2.) What is the topic of the paragraph? The topic of the paragraph is the reaction of the townspeople after Atticus takes Tom’ case.

3.) What will the paragraph prove? How the reaction paints a negative portrait of the relationship between blacks and whites in the town.

**Examples: Your Turn – Match the number to the correct section of the topic sentence**

Another section of the novel that illustrates coming of age takes place when Dill gets very upset during Mr. Gilmer’s examination of Tom Robinson.

What does this sentence tell us?

1.) Where in the essay is this paragraph? Probably the second paragraph of the essay

2.) What is the topic of the paragraph? Dill getting upset during Mr. Gilmer’s cross examination

3.) What will the paragraph prove? How this scene illustrates coming of age

A final way that *To Kill a Mockingbird* illustrates moral education comes from the lesson Scout learns after Boo Radley finally shows himself and saves both Scout and Jem.

What does this sentence tell us?

1.) Where in the essay is this paragraph? Third body paragraph

2.) What is the topic of the paragraph? Lesson Scout learns from the Boo “cover-up”

3.) What will the paragraph prove? How this scene illustrates moral education