

## Title

### 1. What is the title?

This is the personal title that you choose for your piece of writing that is NOT the name of the assignment (which should be instead put in the header).

### 2. What does it do?

It is designed to attract and pique the reader's interest in your writing.

### 3. How do I write one?

- Many writers think they must title their piece at the start: instead of writing it at the beginning, you can wait until you have finished your writing and choose a few interesting words from your conclusion instead.
- Once you know your thesis, you can use the 'main idea' to help generate a few words that encapsulate that main point.

Example:

**The Best Place To Live**

## Attention Getter

### 1. What is the attention getter?

This is the opening sentence to your paragraph that precedes your thesis or topic sentence and is connected to the main idea but generalized.

### 2. What does it do?

It is designed to attract and pique the reader's interest in your writing.

### 3. How do I write one?

- Relate a dramatic anecdote.
- Expose a commonly held belief.
- Present surprising facts and statistics.
- Use a fitting quotation.
- Ask a provocative question.
- Tell a vivid anecdote.
- Define a key term.
- Present an interesting observation.
- Create a unique scenario.

Example:

The Best Place To Live

**If an extraterrestrial were to land on Earth, it would have its choice of over 190 countries in which to live. It would be a difficult decision, but one country is certainly a better choice than most of the others.**

## Topic/Thesis Sentence

### 1. What is the topic/thesis sentence?

The topic/thesis sentence is the core sentence in a paragraph and occurs after the attention getter.

### 2. What does it do?

It introduces the main idea of the paragraph and provides an indication of the points/ideas that will be used to prove the topic/thesis statement.

3. **How do I write one?**

Summarize the main idea of your paragraph. Indicate to the reader what your paragraph will be about.

Example: The Best Place To Live

If an extraterrestrial were to land on Earth, it would have its choice of over 190 countries in which to live. It would be a difficult decision, but one country is certainly a better choice than most of the others. **Canada is one of the best countries in the world due to its health care system, standard of education, and its urban centres.**

**Supporting Details**

1. **What are supporting sentences?**

They come after the topic sentence, making up the body of a paragraph.

2. **What do they do?**

They give details to develop and support the main idea of the paragraph.

3. **How do I write them?**

You should give supporting facts, details, quotations, and examples that are thoroughly explained. In senior level English classes, quotations and direct reference information is required (whether it is from online references or quotes from literature – you must support your ideas).

Example: The Best Place To Live

If an extraterrestrial were to land on Earth, it would have its choice of over 190 countries in which to live. It would be a difficult decision, but one country is certainly a better choice than most of the others. Canada is one of the best countries in the world due to its health care system, standard of education, and its urban centres. **First, Canada has a universal health care system which “comprehensive coverage for medically necessary hospital and physician services” (Health Canada). This allows all Canadians to have access to medical services regardless of their income or geographical location in the country. Second, Canada has a high standard of education that is also publically funded by all levels of government from kindergarten to secondary levels and has resulted in a 99% national literacy rate (“Education in Canada”). Finally, Canada's cities are clean and efficiently managed with both Calgary, Alberta and Ottawa, Ontario ranking first and fourth on the Sierra Club’s cleanest cities in the world (“Cleanest Cities”).**

**Closing Sentence**

1. **What is the closing sentence?**

The closing sentence is the last sentence in a paragraph.

2. **What does it do?**

It restates the main idea of your paragraph and also tries to have a lasting impact or epiphany.

3. **How do I write one?**

Restate the main idea of the paragraph using different words.

Example:

The Best Place To Live

If an extraterrestrial were to land on Earth, it would have its choice of over 190 countries in which to live. It would be a difficult decision, but one country is certainly a better choice than most of the others. Canada is one of the best countries in the world due to its health care system, standard of education, and its urban centres. First, Canada has a universal health care system which “comprehensive coverage for medically necessary hospital and physician services” (Health Canada). This allows all Canadians to have access to medical services regardless of their income or geographical location in the country. Second, Canada has a high standard of education that is also publicly funded by all levels of government from kindergarten to secondary levels and has resulted in a 99% national literacy rate (“Education in Canada”). Finally, Canada's cities are clean and efficiently managed with both Calgary, Alberta and Ottawa, Ontario ranking first and fourth on the Sierra Club’s cleanest cities in the world (“Cleanest Cities”). Overall, Canada has more to offer with its health care, education, and cities that would be a wonderful for anyone anywhere on the planet or in orbit above it.

### Citations/Works Cited

1. **What is the citation or works cited?**

A list of all source material consulted to craft the piece of writing

2. **What does it do?**

It helps show the material used to write the piece and avoid plagiarism or academic dishonesty, ensuring that the ideas of others are properly documented

3. **How do I write one?**

Whenever you consult, refer to, or quote from a source, enter the information in MLA style using Son of Citation Machine at <http://citationmachine.net/index2.php> and then copy and paste it under your piece of writing or on a full page after your writing. Ensure that for each reference used, whether directly or indirectly quoting, that you put a reference at the end of the sentence for the source.

The Best Place To Live

If an extraterrestrial were to land on Earth, it would have its choice of over 190 countries in which to live. It would be a difficult decision, but one country is certainly a better choice than most of the others. Canada is one of the best countries in the world due to its health care system, standard of education, and its urban centres. First, Canada has a universal health care system which “comprehensive coverage for medically necessary hospital and physician services” (**Health Canada**). This allows all Canadians to have access to medical services regardless of their income or geographical location in the country. Second, Canada has a high standard of education that is also publicly funded by all levels of government from kindergarten to secondary levels and has resulted in a 99% national literacy rate (“**Education in Canada**”). Finally, Canada's cities are clean and efficiently managed with both Calgary, Alberta and Ottawa, Ontario ranking first and fourth on the Sierra Club’s cleanest cities in the world (“**Cleanest Cities**”). Overall, Canada has more to offer with its health care, education, and cities that would be a wonderful for anyone anywhere on the planet or in orbit above it.

Works Cited

Canada. Health Canada. *Health Care System*. 2012. Web. <<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hcs-sss/index-eng.php>>.

"Education in Canada." *Wikipedia*. N.p., 17 07 2013. Web. 1 Sep 2013. <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education\\_in\\_Canada](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_Canada)>.

"The Cleanest And The Most Polluted Cities in the World." *Sierra Club GreenHome*. N.p., n.d. Web. 1 Sep 2013.

**Prewriting**

The prewriting stage is when you think carefully and organize your ideas for your paragraph before you begin writing.

**Six Prewriting Steps:**

**1. Think carefully about what you are going to write.** Ask yourself: What question am I going to answer in this paragraph or essay? How can I best answer this question? What is the most important part of my answer? How can I make an introductory sentence (or thesis statement) from the most important part of my answer? What facts or ideas can I use to support my introductory sentence? How can I make this paragraph or essay interesting? Do I need more facts on this topic? Where can I find more facts on this topic?

**2. Open your notebook.** Write out your answers to the above questions. You do not need to spend a lot of time doing this; just write enough to help you remember why and how you are going to write your paragraph or essay.

**3. Collect facts related to your paragraph or essay topic.** Look for and write down facts that will help you to answer your question. Timesaving hint: make sure the facts you are writing are related to the exact question you are going to answer in your paragraph or essay.

**4. Write down your own ideas.** Ask yourself: What else do I want to say about this topic? Why should people be interested in this topic? Why is this topic important?

**5. Find the main idea of your paragraph or essay.** Choose the most important point you are going to present. If you cannot decide which point is the most important, just choose one point and stick to it throughout your paragraph or essay.

**6. Organize your facts and ideas in a way that develops your main idea.** Once you have chosen the most important point of your paragraph or essay, you must find the best way to tell your reader about it. Look at the facts you have written. Look at your own ideas on the topic. Decide which facts and ideas will best support the main idea of your paragraph. Once you have chosen the facts and ideas you plan to use, ask yourself which order to put them in the paragraph. Write down your own note set that you can use as you write your paragraph or essay.