

# The Topic Sentence...

## or, "where are you going?"

The topic sentence is usually, but not always, the first sentence in the each body paragraph. It introduces what the paragraph is going to cover LINKING that to the essay question. Topic sentences SHOULD make mention somewhere of at least a word or two from the topic – this is a sure fire way to ensure you stay on the topic.

The topic sentence should be ONE sentence long.

Think back to the topic:

*Will machines overpower the human race?*

The main points I outlined in my introduction were:

- Humans can limit the potential of machines
- They can also halt... unforeseen, glitches
- And without emotion machines can not have the desire or need to take over

A rule of essay writing is that the order you presented your points in the introduction is the order of your body paragraphs.

So, my first body paragraph topic sentence might go something like:

■ Machines can not overpower humans as they are inventions made and controlled by humans.

- can not – reiterates my approach
- inventions made and controlled by humans – is the topic of the paragraph
- overpower – is a key word from the essay topic

Or, it might be something more like this:

■ Humans can decide what machines are able to do, ensuring their power is limited.

- Humans can...limit – is the topic of the paragraph
- Power – links to use of word overpower in the essay topic