ใบความรู้ที่ 1

**Identifying the Main Ideas**

1 **Identifying the Topic**

• The topic is the subject being discussed: person, place, or thing.

• Discover the topic by asking who, or what, is the most referred to subject in the sentences.

• The topic should be general enough to include aspects that are discussed and specific enough to excluded unrelated items.

• Most of the times you will need two or more words to fully express the topic.

ใบความรู้ที่ 2

**From Topic to Main Idea**

Once you have identifies the topic, you still need to discover the main idea.

• The main idea is the control message or point of the paragraph.

• Discover the main idea by asking:

What does the writer want to say about the topic?

**Paragraph:**

A paragraph is a group of related sentences that express a single idea about a single topic-the main idea.

**The Topic Sentence:**

The topic sentence is the one sentence that expresses the main idea

**How to Identify Topic Sentences:**

• The topic sentence is more general than most of the other sentences in the paragraph.

• The topic sentence answers the question, “What’s the point of this paragraph?”

• The topic sentence is developed by both general and specific sentences throughout the paragraph.

• The topic sentence can be used to sum up the entire paragraph.

• Anyone can paraphrase the main idea, but only the writer can write a topic sentence.

**The Topic Sentence First**

The writer first states his or her main point and then explains it.

Example:

Dogs in the U.S. are treated like humans. People talk to their dogs and buy them special toys and clothing. There are special parks, hotels, restaurants, and bakeries for dogs. Some owners take their dogs to see a psychiatrist as well as the veterinarian. American dogs are spoiled like children.

**The Topic Sentence Last**

The writer leads up to the main point and then directly states it at the end.

Example:

In most paragraphs, the topic sentence appears first. In many paragraph, however, it comes last. Sometimes it is stated both at the beginning and at the end, in different words.

Every paragraph must have a topic sentence in order to be effective.

**Topic Sentence in the Middle**

Some details lead up to or introduce the main idea while others follow the main idea to further explain or describe it.

Example:

You should get an oil change every 3,000 miles. You need to check the air pressure in your tires and have them rotated. There are some things you should do regularly to maintain your car in good condition. It is also important to check the battery voltage and all fluid levels. Don’t forget to inspect the belts and hoses for signs of wear.

**Topic Sentence First and Last**

Writers may emphasize an important idea at the beginning and then again at the end. Or, the first and last sentences together express the main point of the paragraph.

Example:

Penicillin is one of the greatest of the wonder drugs. It has saved thousands of lives already and will save many more in the future. Unfortunately it has no effect at all on most of the ills of mankind. Penicillin is a very good drug, but it is certainly not a cure-all.