

ASSIGNMENT BY SIR RIZWAN

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A. Remember that a topic sentence is a complete sentence and is neither too general nor too specific.

Step 1 Read the sentences in each group, and decide which sentence is the best topic sentence. Write *best TS* (for "best topic sentence") on the line next to it.

Step 2 Decide what is wrong with the other sentences. They may be too general, or they may be too specific, or they may be incomplete sentences. Write *too general*, *too specific*, or *incomplete* on the lines next to them.

The first one has been done for you as an example.

Group 1

- too specific a. A lunar eclipse is an omen of a coming disaster.
- too general b. Superstitions have been around forever.
- best TS c. People hold many superstitious beliefs about the moon.
- incomplete d. Is made of green cheese.

Group 2

- too general a. The history of astronomy is interesting.
- Too specific b. Ice age people recorded the appearance of new moons by making scratches in animal bones.

Example can't be TS c. For example, Stonehenge in Britain, built 3500 years ago to track the movement of the sun.

- best TS** d. Ancient people observed and recorded lunar and solar events in different ways.

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Group 3

- ✓ best TS
too general
too specific
 irrelevant/ incomplete
Too general
- It is hard to know which foods are safe to eat nowadays.
 - In some large ocean fish, there are high levels of mercury.
 - Undercooked chicken and hamburger may carry *E. coli* bacteria.
 - Not to mention mad cow disease.
 - Food safety is an important issue.

Group 4

- too specific
too general
too specific
 ✓ best TS
- Hybrid automobiles more economical to operate than gasoline-powered cars.
 - The new hybrid automobiles are very popular.
 - Hybrid cars have good fuel economy because a computer under the hood decides to run the electric motor, the small gasoline engine, or the two together.
 - The new hybrid automobiles are popular because of their fuel economy.

Group 5

- too lengthy/ specific
general
 ✓ best TS
too general
incomplete
- The North American Catawba Indians of the Southeast and the Tlingit of the Northwest both see the rainbow as a kind of bridge between heaven and earth.
 - A rainbow seen from an airplane is a complete circle.
 - Many cultures interpret rainbows in positive ways.
 - Rainbows are beautiful.
 - The belief that you can find a pot of gold at a rainbow's end.