Support the topic

- Usually the first sentence of the paragraph is the topic sentence.

  - The topic sentence gives the main idea.

- The other sentences in the paragraph are the *supporting sentences*.

  - Supporting sentences support the topic.

  - They give arguments, details, examples, etc.

  - Most support needs to be facts.

Types of sentences

- *Questions* ask for information. They don't support a topic (usually).

  - What is the capital of Guatemala?

  - Do you know *One Piece*?

Types of sentences

- *Greetings* mark a relationship between people. They don't support a topic.

  - Hello.

  - Good afternoon.

Types of sentences

- *Exclamations* or emotional expressions tell how a writer/speaker feels. They don't support a topic.
  - Oh my God!
  - That's great!

Types of sentences

- *Statements* give information. Some statements are good support for a topic.

  - Statements of *fact* are the best support.

  - Facts can explain the things you know (explanatory writing).

  - Facts can convince people of your arguments (persuasive writing).

Facts versus opinions

- Facts are objective statements of truth. They are outside the individual, and remain true no matter who says them.

  - Water boils at 100°C.

  - Approximately 127,000,000 people live in Japan.

Facts versus opinions

- Opinions are subjective statements. They are based on one person's beliefs or feelings.

    - Maccha ice cream is delicious.

    - Students should not be required to take English classes.

Facts versus opinions

- It is *sometimes* OK to express opinions in academic papers.

- But, topics need to be supported *mostly with facts*.

- Supporting facts should be as specific as possible.

Types of facts

- Examples

    College students do many kinds of part time jobs. **For example,** my friend Junichiro works in a restaurant on the weekends.
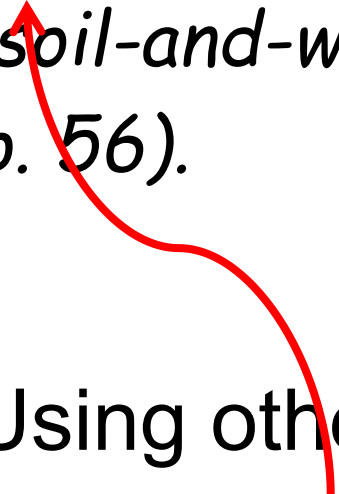
Types of facts

- Statistics

  People in Chad, a country in Africa, don't eat much meat. *The average person in Chad eats **14 kg** in a year, while the average person in America eats **125 kg** per year.*

Types of facts

- Quotations

  Kuwait does not grow its own food. ***According to*** *the book* <u>*Hungry Planet*</u>*, "Most of the food in this oil-rich but soil-and-water-poor country is imported" (p. 56).*

- Plagiarism: Using other people's words or ideas **without giving credit**. It's considered cheating.

Use facts

- Support your topic sentence with facts.

- If you include an opinion in your paper, support it with facts.

  - Facts that show why you have that opinion will make it easier to understand.

- Use a mixture of examples, statistics, and quotations.

Peer revising

- The hardest part of revising is thinking like a reader.

- One solution: Read other people's work, and get them to read yours.

Peer revising

- Work with your group (all the people who have the same number as you).

- Read someone else's paragraph.

    - Is the topic sentence clear and focused?

    - Is there anything difficult to understand?

    - Is there any information you want to know that wasn't in the paragraph?

    - Don't worry too much about English grammar, spelling or other details.