

# TOPIC SENTENCES

(Occasion/position statement)

An **occasion** is the first part of the topic sentence. The occasion introduces your **reason for writing**. An occasion can be any event, problem, idea, solution or circumstance that gives you **reason** to write.

The **position** states what you plan to **prove or explain** in your paragraph.

An **occasion/position statement** can be a complex sentence and can begin with one of these subordinate conjunctions.

## START WITH...

**If**  
**After**  
**Since**  
**Before**  
**So that**  
**Whenever**  
**As long as**

**In order that (to)**  
**Even though**  
**Although**  
**Unless**  
**While**  
**When**  
**Even**  
**As if**

**As**  
**Until**  
**Where**  
**Though**  
**Even if**  
**Because**  
**Wherever**  
**As soon as**

## EXAMPLES:

*Although my family and I have taken many wonderful vacations, none was more fun and exciting than our camping trip to the Grand Canyon.*

*Before you make the decision to light up a cigarette, consider the problems caused by smoking.*

*Even though bike helmets are sometimes unfashionable and uncomfortable, all cyclists should wear them.*

*If students use chemicals to do science experiments, it is important that they learn the proper way to dispose of them.*