TOPIC SENTENCES:

1. Look at these examples.

“Pollution”

Pollution is a problem that people are becoming increasingly aware of.

“Small cars”

Small cars help to reduce our impact on the environment as they tend to be more fuel efficient.

**Exercise 1**

**Create topic sentences for these topics.**

“Large cars”

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“Living in a remote area”

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“Studying abroad”

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“The candy bar diet”

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“National holidays”

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1. Are these **topic sentences** strong or weak? If they are weak, can you improve them?

Football hooliganism is a problem that affects matches in many countries. We can see scenes on TV of rowdy crowds throwing things at players on the field or each other. In recent years the problem has caught the attention of authorities, who have reacted by increasing police presence at matches. In some cases, hooligans have been put on lists banning them from entering stadiums.

Many students cannot afford a car. The city buses usually pass the university, so those students can get to class by bus. Many universities have a special shuttle bus that is provided for student transportation. Other students like to ride to class on bicycles. Besides, this is good exercise. Students who live close to campus can enjoy a leisurely walk to class.

3.**Thesis statements**:

Question:

Some people believe that money spent on space research benefits all of humanity. Other people take the opposite view and say that money spent on this type of research is wasted.

Tell which point of view you agree with and explain why, using specific details and reasons.

What do you think of the following thesis statements in response to the question?

Thesis 1:

Personally, I find that I cannot align myself completely with either opinion. I have some reservations about both positions. No one can deny that weather and communications satellites are a good investment, but I think that unrealistic research, such as exploring Mars or Venus, does not have any good bearing on most of humans’ development at the present time.

Thesis 2:

Although I find space a very fascinating and exciting subject, I agree with the view that money spent on it is wasted when so many people are dying around the world as a result of problems here. Spending money on space research should be spent on helping solve our problems here on earth.

**Other Questions: Read the questions, choose one and write a thesis statement.**

*Smoking is very harmful for health; yet, people do it. There are various theories as to why people smoke. Explain why people do this unhealthy activity.*

*Some people are afraid to board an airplane. This severely limits them in today’s world. Provide persuasive arguments about why people should not be afraid to fly.*

*Agree or disagree: People with pets are better human beings.*

*People tend to think that metro systems are the best form of public transportation. However, there is a lot of dissent on this topic. Explain your opinion in this matter.*

4. **Introductory paragraphs**—examples:

Examples:

 Many people believe that money spent on space research has a benefit for all people. Others are sure that there are better ways in which to spend this money. Both viewpoints make their points, and those who hold these views often feel passionately about the issue. Personally, I find that I cannot align myself completely with either opinion. I have some reservations about both positions. No one can deny that weather and communications satellites are a good investment, but I think that unrealistic research, such as exploring Mars or Venus, does not have any good bearing on most of humans’ development at the present time.

 There is a great question before us: is money spent on space research a waste? Although I find space a very fascinating and exciting subject, I agree with the view that money spent on it is wasted when so many people are dying around the world as a result of possibly curable diseases. I will go on to explain my reasons in greater detail.

**Now write your own introductory paragraph about the question of space research.**

**5. Body paragraphs**

Read this essay question:

“Video games have become present in our culture. However, they still generate some controversy as some say that they harm childrens’, and people’s, development. What arguments are made for both sides of this issue? Where do you stand?

The two following body paragraphs may be found answering such an essay:

There are many researchers who say that video game use stimulates brain development. Such experts point to studies that show that children who play a lot of these games have greater hand eye coordination. Furthermore, some studies even indicate quicker reaction time and faster drawing of conclusions from visual input. I have even seen my nephew’s amazingly quick manual dexterity, and it seems that this is due to his frequent playing of video games.

On the other hand, there is a mountain of research that seems to point to the opposite: video game use is harming young people’s development. There are studies that state that these young people become withdrawn and lack social skills. Moreover, certain physical problems may also arise. These may include vision impairment, headaches, squinting, migraines, and joint problems—especially wrists and elbows.

**6. Concluding statement /Concluding paragraph**

In this paragraph, you may restate your thesis in different words or summarize your reasons. In your final comment you may call for action. Your final comment should be powerful—one that readers will remember.

Example of a concluding paragraph for an essay stating the writer’s opinion of cloning humans:

 To summarize, cloning humans is clearly dangerous and unethical. It is one thing to clone a mouse, sheep, or pig but quite another matter to duplicate a human being. Even though scientists claim that their only purpose is to help humanity, ethical people must demand an end to such experiments now.