Topic sentence practice sheet

What is a topic sentence?

It is the first sentence in a paragraph that states the main idea and captures the readers attention.

Ways to fix topic sentences and make them more interesting

Consider the following methods for improving topic sentences. Examples are given based on the following topic sentence that would need improvement. Ie. Dogs are good pets.

1. Make it into a question Why are dogs such good pets?
2. Change vocabulary (use thesaurus) Dogs are fantastic pets.
3. Be more specific. Small dogs are good household pets.
4. Use slang for effect. Dogs are “wicked” pets.
5. Change length of the sentence. Dogs are the most wonderful pets a person can have.
6. Use grammar/punctuation Dogs make the best pets!
7. Add adjectives/adverbs Dogs are the most wonderful, fantastic, loyal pets a person can own.
8. Change word order The best pets in the world are dogs.

**Exercise #1: Topic sentences to fix**

Fix each of the following topic sentences by using the techniques listed above. You must use at least three techniques with each sentence.

1. The weather in Prince Rupert is bad.
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is a good movie.
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_is a good place to visit.
4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is fun.
5. People watch too much T.V.
6. Good things happen every day.
7. Believing in yourself is important.
8. Working hard pays off.
9. It is important to do your best.
10. Honesty is important.

**Exercise #2: Now write ten basic topic sentences of your own and use the techniques to fix them.**

Challenge- Create one “ultimate” topic sentence. Try to use all of the techniques in one sentence.

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