



## Review and Remember:

*Purpose* – Why am I writing? (to entertain, inform, persuade or communicate)

*Audience* – For whom am I writing? (teacher, classmate, friend)

*Topic* – What am I writing about? (this will be given to you)

*Form* – What kind of writing am I doing? (a letter, short story, essay, article)

## Adding Colorful Details

Details are what bring stories to life and make them interesting and unusual. They add flavor to your thoughts and experiences. Adding details will greatly improve your writing.

Look at the following sentences.

*The boy ate a sandwich.*

There is something missing? What boy? What kind of sandwich? Colorful details would make this sentence much better to read.

*The nine-year-old boy with muddy hands took a huge bite out of a thick, drippy jelly sandwich.*

Isn't that a better sentence? Yes, it is!



## Let's Practice

Now, it is your turn to try. Take these boring sentences and add details to spice them up.

1. The girl walked to town.

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2. My class is going on a field trip.

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3. The boy has a new pet.

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## Stick To The Topic

It is very important that once the teacher has given you a writing topic (**prompt**) that you stick to it. Make sure that as you write the topic given is all that you discuss. Don't get off track in your writing. Using a **topic sentence** is a must at the beginning of each paragraph you write. Remember that the topic sentence covers all that you plan to write about in each paragraph.



## Let's Practice: Write a topic sentence for each prompt.

Write one or more paragraphs about a day that you are excited about. It can be a holiday, a birthday, or just a day of the week, like Saturday.

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Your class is studying about animals. Write one or more paragraphs about your favorite animal. Include why this animal is your favorite and all the things that you know about this animal.

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## Did these writers stay on topic?

Read the following paragraphs, and then choose the paragraph that stays on topic by circling it. If the paragraph

Last summer, my family went to the Grand Canyon on vacation. When we first saw the Grand Canyon, we couldn't believe how deep it was. I dug a hole in my backyard once, but it wasn't as deep as the Grand Canyon. We signed up for a tour that took us up in a helicopter to see the canyon up close. I am going to learn how to fly a helicopter in a few years. It was a great trip.

Over the years, Stennis Space Center has grown to include 30 other programs. Some programs help protect the public's health. Other programs help protect animals and the environment. Stennis Space Center also has a great visitors' center. In the summer children ages 7 to 12 can attend Astro Camp at Stennis. It is a great place to go and learn about space.

does not stay on topic, then cross out the sentences that get off track.

**Time to Write:** Now, don't forget to add colorful details and stick to the topic. You are ready to write! Before you take off and write in sentence form, you need to take time and brainstorm. Read the topic below and brainstorm about the topic by filling in the circles.

Your class is studying about animals. Write one or more paragraphs about your favorite animal. Include why this animal is your favorite and all the things that you know about this animal.





