

TOPIC DEVELOPMENT

If you want to know whether you're moving in the right direction when you're trying to pick a topic for a paragraph, these questions should help you!

Ask yourself:

1. **Can I say everything I need to say in a single paragraph of ten to twenty-five sentences?**
2. **Audience: Who do I imagine would read this? — Who cares about this, or who SHOULD care about this?**
3. **Audience: How would the thing I want to write be interesting or useful to the person I'm writing it for?**
4. **Can I write this? (Do I have the knowledge, information, and ability to do an okay job on this topic?)**

ANGLE:

How you talk about something is more important than the topic itself.

TOPIC: What do you want to talk about?

CONTROLLING IDEA: What do you want to say about it?

TOPIC + CONTROLLING IDEA = TOPIC SENTENCE

~~Pasta is Italian.~~

Pasta + is my least favorite food.

Pasta + is a great place to start if you are learning to cook for yourself.

Pasta + is fattening for several reasons.

The TOPIC SENTENCE is the most important sentence in the paragraph.