

WRITING

TREE

"I have difficulty keeping to the topic."

Topic sentence

- The topic sentence is the trunk of the tree: everything is attached to it.
- Topic sentence needs to be clear and direct.
- Make sure that your topic sentence is relevant to the body of your essay.

Reasons

- All supporting details are the branches attached to the tree.
- List at least four items that support your topic sentence.

Examine the strength of your listed reasons.

- Reasons need to be directly related to the topic.
- Reasons need to be based in fact, not just opinion.
- Cite examples and research to support the reasons.

Ending: Create a conclusion sentence/paragraph.

- Restate the main ideas of your essay.
- Do not introduce new material.
- Leave the reader with a clear idea of your message.