

## The topic and the main idea

▷ The topic sentence ...

- usually comes first in a paragraph.
- gives the writer's main idea or opinion about the topic and helps the reader understand what the paragraph is going to talk about.

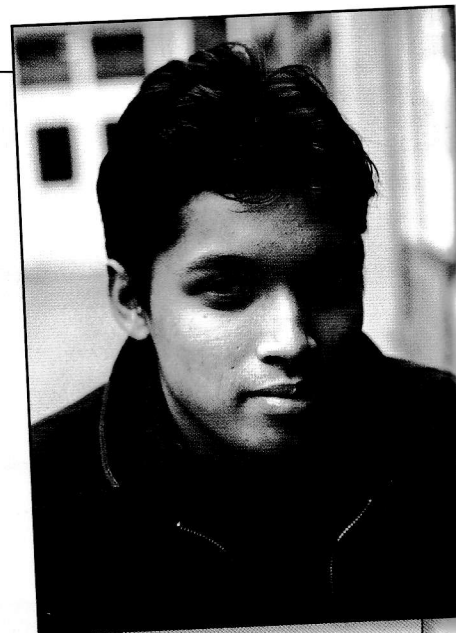
**4 Circle the topic of the sentence. Underline the main idea about the topic.**

- a. (Switzerland) is a very interesting country to visit.
- b. One cause of insomnia is stress.
- c. A library is a good place to study.
- d. Learning a second language creates job opportunities.
- e. Watching and playing sports can both be good forms of relaxation.
- f. One of the most valuable tools for students is the computer.
- g. People with different personalities may find it difficult to live together.
- h. The summer season is a good time for travel.
- i. There are several advantages to living in a larger city.

**5 For each of these paragraphs, choose the sentence from the list below that would make the best topic sentence.**

a.

.....  
 ..... When Ken wanted to enter a good university, he studied hard to pass the examination. The first time he took the exam, he did not do well, and he felt very discouraged. But he knew he wanted to study at that university, so he studied more. The next year, he tried taking the exam again. The second time, he did very well, and now he is studying engineering. I believe Ken is a good role model for me, and he has taught me that never giving up is the best way to succeed.



1. One of my closest friends, named Ken, is a person I can trust.
2. My friend Ken is a very successful student.
3. I admire my friend Ken because he doesn't give up.