



## Writing Topic Sentences that List Main Points

A set of exercises based on April Gudenrath's *Ted Ed* segment

### [A Host of Heroes](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p9Q8Dj3X2c)

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## 1. Comprehension

### Before You Watch

A. Match the bolded words and phrases with their meanings. The first one is done for you.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. The hero "Wonder Woman" <b>has inspired</b> many girls. <u>  j  </u> | a. <i>imperfections or weaknesses</i>   |
| 2. <b>Impatience</b> can lead to foolish acts. _____                    | b. <i>wins</i>  |
| 3. Parents often <b>sacrifice</b> a lot for their children. _____       | c. <i>physical or emotional pain</i>  |
| 4. Many people were in <b>distress</b> after the earthquake. _____      | d. <i>killed</i>  |
| 5. The driver <b>yielded</b> to the people crossing the street. _____   | e. <i>beyond the laws of nature and science</i>                               |
| 6. The hero <b>slayed</b> the monster with her sword. _____             | f. <i>give up something for a greater purpose</i>                             |
| 7. The <b>tragic</b> car crash ended his life. _____                    | g. <i>causing terrible sadness</i>  |
| 8. Movies often show that "good" <b>triumphs</b> over "evil." _____     | h. <i>allowed (someone) to pass</i>   |
| 9. The movie is not very good. It has many <b>flaws</b> . _____         | i. <i>a lack or absence of patience</i>                                       |
| 10. Some heroes have <b>supernatural</b> powers. _____                  | j. <i>has produced motivation or passion toward a particular goal or idea</i> |

B. Write the answers to the following questions or discuss them in groups or as a class.

1. *What is a hero?*
2. *What are common characteristics of a hero?*
3. *Which is your favorite hero from literature or film? Why?*

### After You Watch

C. Watch April Gudenrath's video "A Host of Heroes" ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= p9Q8Dj3X2c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p9Q8Dj3X2c)). After you watch, check (✓) True or False below. Watch the video again if necessary. You may also use the "CC" button to show English subtitles if you need extra help.

- |   | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
|---|-------------|--------------|
| 1. The video identifies two main types of heroes. | _____       | _____        |
| 2. Heroes always survive their battles.           | _____       | _____        |

## 2. Writing Topic Sentences that List Main Points

Review the first section of the *Word Combination Card* (“Topic Sentences and Thesis Statements”). Then, complete the following tasks.

- A. Complete the topic sentences by matching the numbers and letters below. Write the letters in the spaces provided. Watch the video again if necessary.

### Beginning of the Sentence

1. \_\_\_\_ Heroes fall into three main types:
2. \_\_\_\_ A famous family background, super-human strength, and bravery
3. \_\_\_\_ There are two main characteristics of a tragic hero,
4. \_\_\_\_ The two main factors in Romeo’s death
5. \_\_\_\_ The two main differences between Beowulf and King Arthur
6. \_\_\_\_ There are four common benefits of heroes:

### End of the sentence

- a. namely, a powerful personality and a major flaw.
- b. are their levels of physical strength and their amounts of personal suffering.
- c. epic, tragic, and romantic.
- d. are three common characteristics of an epic hero.
- e. are his powerful love for Juliet and his impatience.
- f. they give us something to believe in, they can show the good in people, they give us hope, and they often remind us of the value of knowledge.



Shakespeare’s  
*Romeo and  
Juliet*

- B. Circle all of the commas (,) and colons (: ) in the sentences above.
- C. Next to each punctuation mark that you circled, write one of the following numbers.
1. A colon before a list
  2. A comma before or after the word “namely”
  3. A comma between items in a list

- D. Complete the sentences below with the words from the box. Then add punctuation to each sentence as necessary.

differences	are	of	common	categories of	There are
namely	and	heroes	characteristics of	advantages	

1. There are three main \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ epic tragic and romantic.
  2. A powerful personality and a major flaw are two \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ a tragic hero.
  3. The two main tragic aspects \_\_\_\_\_ Oedipus' story \_\_\_\_\_ his murder of his own father \_\_\_\_\_ his accidental marriage to his mother.
  4. \_\_\_\_\_ two main factors in Romeo's death \_\_\_\_\_ his powerful love for Juliet and his impatience.
  5. There are two primary \_\_\_\_\_ between Beowulf and King Arthur their levels of physical strength and their amounts of personal suffering.
  6. Four important \_\_\_\_\_ of heroes in our society are that they give us something to believe in they can show the good in people they give us hope and they often remind us of the value of knowledge.
- E. Choose one of the topic sentences in Exercise C or D and, on a separate piece of paper, write a paragraph of approximately 125-150 words to support it.

### 3. Expanding the Topic

Questions for discussion or writing:

1. Have the main characteristics of a hero changed over the last 1000 years? Explain and give examples.
2. Are there other types of heroes in addition to the categories represented in this video?
3. Are women represented as heroes as much as men in film and literature? Why or why not? Do you think this will change in the future? Give reasons for your answer.
4. Who is a real-life hero in your life or in today's society? Explain why this person is a hero.