

Focus

Good writers **focus** on the point they want to make. The first sentence of a paragraph generally introduces the topic. All the details and supporting evidence that follow should focus on that topic. Writing without focus can confuse the reader.

Topic Thomas Edison loved to read.

On Focus Before he was 12, he had read plays by Shakespeare.

On Focus He borrowed hundreds of books from the Detroit library.

Off Focus Edison was interested in the telegraph.

Directions Find the two sentences that do not focus on the main idea of the paragraph. Write the sentences and explain why they do not fit.

Air travel has come a long way since its early days. The very first passengers were in for an adventure. They would sit behind the pilot in an open cockpit. The roar of the engines and the wind whipping past made air travel an exciting experience. Amelia Earhart was one of the first female pilots. Airlines later added more seats and protection from the weather, but for years flying was far from relaxing. Today's air passengers expect high speeds, comfortable seating, and movies on every flight. As a result, fewer people travel by train. Travel by airplane today is about as exciting as catching a bus!

1. Sentence: _____

Reason: _____

2. Sentence: _____

Reason: _____

Directions Complete one of the following sentences to begin a paragraph. Then write three sentences of your own that focus on the topic.

The best way to travel is _____.

The thing I'd like to do most is _____.
