

**A topic and concluding sentence summarize what the rest of the paragraph is about, just like the word “sandwich” summarizes what bread, cheese and meat all mean together. It doesn’t just list the ideas that follow.**



**Topic Sentence**



**1<sup>st</sup> Idea**



**2<sup>nd</sup> Idea**



**3<sup>rd</sup> Idea**



**Concluding Sentence**

# **Bad Topic Sentence:**

**Tony's Deli makes an  
incredibly delicious bread,  
cheese, and meat.**



**Tony's Deli makes an  
incredibly delicious sandwich.**



**They use fresh bread baked  
every morning in their oven.**



**The cheese has been imported  
from Switzerland.**



**The meat has a great flavor.**



**I love eating the sandwiches at  
Tony's Deli.**

# **Bad Topic Sentence:**

**George Washington Carver traveled in the Jesup Wagon, taught what crops return nutrients to the soil, and made inexpensive crops popular.**



**George Washington Carver taught farmers in the South how to get the most out of their land.**



**He traveled with his Jesup wagon to teach farmers about soil chemistry.**



**Carver convinced farmers to plant crops that would return nutrients to the soil.**



**He helped popularize crops which were both nutritious to eat and inexpensive to grow.**



**George Washington Carver truly improved the lives of southern farmers.**