

PARAGRAPHS & OUTLINING

The Weather in Boston

There are four seasons in Boston: spring, summer, and autumn. In the winter it is often very cold and windy, and in the summer it is sometimes very hot and humid. The weather in the spring and autumn, however, is usually very pleasant. For many people, these are the two best seasons of the year because they are the only times the climate is comfortable. Boston is a city where the weather often changes every few hours during the whole year. People like to say, "If you don't like the weather now, wait awhile." There is one thing that is certain about Boston weather. It seldom stays the same.

What is the topic sentence? _____

The Weather in Boston

- I. _____ ← main idea
- A. _____ ← *subtopic #1*
1. _____ } ← *details*
2. _____ }
- B. _____ ← *subtopic #2*
1. _____ } ← *details*
2. _____ }
- C. _____ ← *subtopic #3*
1. _____ } ← *details*
2. _____ }
3. _____ }
- D. _____ ← *subtopic #4*

What Am I?

I usually go to work by subway and get to work by 8:00 a.m. Before I start my job, I put on my uniform and look at myself in the mirror to make sure that I look neat. At 8:30 in the morning, I go on duty. I usually eat lunch from 12:00 to 1:00 and generally take a fifteen-minute break in the morning and in the afternoon. At 4:30 in the afternoon, I go off duty.

I enjoy my job very much because I meet all kinds of people. Many people ask me questions, and I give them the necessary information. I try to be very helpful, and I always call out floors very clearly. I never stay in one place long. On the contrary, I am constantly on the move. A few men still take off their hats in my car. Sometimes I tell passengers to put out their cigarettes. Some people smile at me, and others ignore me. My life is a series of "ups and downs." What am I?

There isn't a topic sentence for each of the two paragraphs. However, each paragraph still expresses only one central idea. What are these two central ideas?

1. _____
2. _____

What Am I?

I. _____ ⇐ CENTRAL IDEA #1

- A. _____
B. _____
C. _____ } ⇐ *subtopics*

II. _____ ⇐ CENTRAL IDEA #2

- A. _____
B. _____
C. _____
D. _____
E. _____ } ⇐ *subtopics*

The United States

The United State is a very large country. From the Atlantic Ocean on the East coast to the Pacific Ocean on the West Coast, it is about three thousand miles wide. Canada is the country to the north of the United States, and Mexico is the country to the south. The Rio Grande is the boundary between Mexico and the United States. The country is a composite of different geographic formations--high mountains and deep canyons, great river systems and landlocked lakes, rolling plains, forests and rocky coasts, sandy beaches, and even deserts. The major mountain ranges are the Appalachian Mountains in the East and the Rocky Mountains in the West. There are fifty states in the Union today. The two newest states, Hawaii and Alaska, are geographically separated from the other forty-eight states.

The United States has a heterogeneous population. The American people are of almost every creed and every ethnic background. This mix of many kinds of people is the result of the great immigration from abroad throughout American history. The population is now over 240 million people, including 1.5 million Native Americans. English is the common language.

What are the two topic sentences?

1. _____
2. _____

I. _____ ← **(paragraph 1 - main idea)**

A. _____ ← *subtopic #1*

1. _____
 2. _____
- } ←
- details*

B. _____ ← *subtopic #2*

1. _____
 2. _____
- } ←
- details*

C. _____ ← *subtopic #3*

1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
- } ←
- details*

D. _____ ← *subtopic #4*

1. _____
 2. _____
- } ←
- details*

II. _____ ← **(paragraph #2 - main idea)**

A. _____ ← *subtopic #1*

1. _____
 2. _____
- } ←
- details*

B. _____ ← *subtopic #2*

C. _____ ← *subtopic #3*