T**OPIC SENTENCES Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* A topic sentence should be the sentence of a body paragraph
* A topic sentence should do three things:

1. the main idea of the paragraph
2. Relate back to the ­
3. Help to between body paragraphs

**★ GUIDED PRACTICE 1:**

* Look at your lit instruction packet on characterization on Dracula and assume that your thesis is: **Bram Stoker succeeded in creating one of the darkest, creepiest characters in all of Gothic literature through the vampire Dracula.**
* Main ideas could be: personality, physical appearance, motivations/history, thoughts/feelings.

1. RED: underline main idea BLUE: underline words that back to thesis

* Generally agreeable to conversation, as long it revolves around himself, Dracula is one of the most infamous characters in Gothic literature.

2. RED: underline main idea BLUE: underline words that relate back to thesis YELLOW: underline transition

* In addition to his ego-driven communication, Dracula is thought of as the scariest character of all Gothic

literature because of his cruel and menacing physical appearance.

**★ GUIDED PRACTICE 2:**

1. Refer back to the *Harry Potter* excerpt in your lit practice packet
2. Assume your thesis for a paper on Harry Potter reads as follows: **Harry Potter has undergone a difficult life.**
3. Then, note that three main ideas, each one in a body paragraph, that could support that thesis:
4. Harry’s losses

For each main idea below, choose which sentence makes the BEST topic sentence. Color code your answer as a double check.

1. his interactions with the Dursleys
2. his physical appearance

**Paragraph 1: Main idea is HARRY’S LOSSES**

1. Harry is a character who has undergone much hardship in his life.
2. When he was young, Harry lost his parents.
3. Having experienced loss in his life, Harry has had a trying childhood.

**Paragraph 2: Main idea is HARRY and the DURSLEYS**

1. The harsh treatment of those in his household reinforces how problematic life has already been for Harry.
2. In addition to the losses he’s suffered, Harry has had a demanding life at the hands of his aunt, uncle, and cousin.
3. Mean people can unfortunately be found everywhere, and they tend to make life challenging for those around them.

**Paragraph 3: Main idea is HARRY’S PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

1. Harry is a wimp, and he gets picked on because of it.
2. Because Harry is a physical outcast, he experiences further struggles as well.
3. Harry’s clothes, his glasses, and his weak physical structure all take a toll on him.