4 Traits of a

Topic Sentence

1. It should introduce the main idea of the paragraph
2. It should derive from your thesis
3. It should be argumentative/opinionated
4. It should have a transition (if appropriate)

Practice using the following prompt:

Prompt: Should students be required to participate in extra-curricular activities?

Thesis: Extra-curricular activities build resumes, keep students busy, and teach life skills, so it is natural that they should be required.

1st body TS: Extra-curricular activities help students build their resumes before applying to college.

2nd body TS: Not only do these activities build resumes, but they also keep students busy and out of trouble.

3rd body TS: Even more significantly, extra-curricular activities teach necessary life skills such as responsibility, respect, and teamwork.