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YOUR LAND,
MY LAND

- ★ In a unified paragraph, all the sentences work together to develop one main idea. You can develop the main idea with related facts, statistics, reasons, or examples.

In the paragraph below, the writer supports the topic sentence with three facts. Notice that the topic sentence is not the first sentence in the paragraph. Also notice how the underlined words and phrases relate the supporting facts to the main idea.

Water is essential to the survival of the Everglades. Water used to flow freely into the Everglades from Lake Okeechobee. Today, less water is reaching the Everglades because of development in the surrounding region. Where is the water going? Some of it is being used by large farms to irrigate fields. Much of it is held in ponds to drain large areas of land so that houses and businesses can be built. The water also supplies the needs of people in the newly developed areas.

- A** Read the paragraph, which expresses an opinion. In the outline below, identify the main idea, two reasons that support the main idea, and two facts that support each reason. State the reasons and facts in your own words.

We need to do everything we can to save the Everglades. This wetland in southern Florida has a unique environment. Both tropical and cool-weather plants and animals live in this diverse ecosystem. There are hundreds of types of plants and over 300 kinds of birds, including many wading birds, such as the ibis. Mammals such as the manatee and the Florida panther also live there. Today, this fragile ecosystem is threatened, as shown by the shrinking number of animals. For example, there are only about 10 percent of the number of ibises that existed in the 1930s. In addition, the manatee, the crocodile, and the Florida panther have become endangered species.

Topic sentence (opinion): _____

A. First reason: _____

1. Supporting fact: _____

2. Supporting fact: _____

B. Second reason: _____

1. Supporting fact: _____

2. Supporting fact: _____

