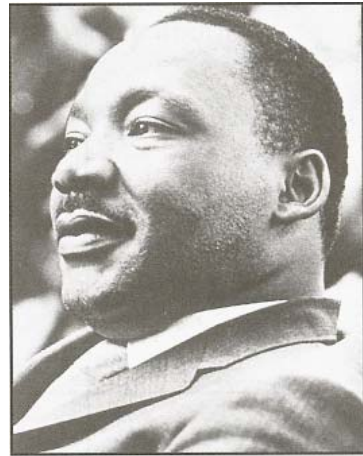


## **Choosing a Topic Sentence and a Concluding Sentence**

*Read this paragraph about Martin Luther King. Then choose the best topic sentence from the choices that follow.*

### **HOW MARTIN LUTHER KING CHANGED**

He was born in the American South where black and white people were kept apart by law. Like his father, he became a Baptist minister. At first, he believed that only revolution could convince whites to give black people a chance in the South. Then, he met some Christian anti-war groups working against violence and racism. These groups had both black and white members. Martin Luther King read a lot about nonviolence and Christian love. He began to change his mind about violence. His first job was in Montgomery, Alabama. In that city, African Americans were protesting against discrimination on the buses. Martin Luther King was their minister. He saw how brave the black people were in their peaceful protests. He also saw how some white people came to support them and how the protesters won a victory. He realized that nonviolent protest could start a mass movement. He believed that such a movement could make important changes in the United States. Later, he defended the rights of poor people and workers and tried to convince the government to stop the war in Vietnam. He remained true to his vision of peaceful change. In a world of violence, Martin Luther King changed himself before he tried to change others.



**Put a check next to the best topic sentence!**

- a. Martin Luther King was born in 1929.
- b. Martin Luther King was a hero because he had the courage to change.
- c. Martin Luther King was a hero.
- d. The person I admire most is Martin Luther King.

Read this paragraph about everyday heroes. Then choose the best topic sentence and concluding sentence from the choices that follow.

### HEROES OF EVERYDAY LIFE

When my parents were children, they lived through the Great Depression in the *1930s*. There was no work and no money, but both my parents always loved music, and that helped them through hard times. My mother became a pianist, and my father became a violinist. When they grew up and got married, they had to face World War II. My father went into the army to fight in a war where many people died. My mother followed him across the country from one army base to another. She, too, got a job with the army. After the war, there were no houses for the ex-soldiers and sometimes no jobs, but my parents were full of hope. My mother grew up in an unhappy home. Her parents were always fighting and never paid attention to her. She promised herself that when she had children of her own, she would be a warm and loving mother. She and my father built a home full of love for each other and for their children. They insisted that my sister and I go to the best universities, and they worked very hard to pay for our education. Both my parents have spent their lives playing music and teaching it to others. My father earned his living and the respect of his colleagues without ever hurting another human being.

Put a check next to the best topic sentence.

- a. My parents are my heroes.
- b. My parents had a hard life.
- c. My parents lived through good times and bad but remained moral people, loving parents, and dedicated musicians.
- d. I am going to tell you about the people I admire most.

Put a check next to the best concluding sentence.

- a. That's why I admire my parents.
- b. My parents were brave and did many things to help others.
- c. My parents are heroes who are devoted to their family and others around them.
- d. My parents are getting older now, and they sometimes have a hard time doing everything they want to do.