**Topic Sentence Rubric**

**Advanced: (20 Points)**

* All of the proficient criteria plus…
* Perfect punctuation.
* Perfect spelling.

**Proficient: (15 Points)**

* The topic sentence demonstrates a **perfectly clear** connection with the thesis statement.
* The topic sentence *completely* controls the content of the paragraph; the rest of the paragraph relates to the topic sentence.
* The topic sentence includes a transition.
* The topic sentence is perfectly concise. It is not overly wordy and it is not hard to read.

**Approaching Proficient: (10 Points)**

* The topic sentence demonstrates a **weak** connection with the thesis statement.
* The topic sentence *mostly* controls the content of the paragraph; the rest of the paragraph mostly relates to the topic sentence.
* The topic sentence includes no transition.
* The topic sentence is mostly concise. It might be wordy and a bit awkward to read.

**Developing: (5 Points)**

* The topic sentence demonstrates **no clear** connection with the thesis statement.
* The topic sentence *does not* control the content of the paragraph; the rest of the paragraph is not unified. It feels disconnected and confusing.
* The topic sentence includes no transition.
* The topic sentence is not concise. Reading it is painful.