**Topic Sentence – An Occasion/Position Statement**

An **Occasion/Position Statement** is a complex (two-part) sentence that begins with one of these words or phrases:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word or Phrase</th>
<th>After</th>
<th>Before</th>
<th>Since</th>
<th>Where</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Although</td>
<td>As</td>
<td>Even</td>
<td>So that</td>
<td>Wherever</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As</td>
<td>As if</td>
<td>Even if</td>
<td>Though</td>
<td>Whether</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As soon as</td>
<td>As long as</td>
<td>Even though</td>
<td>Unless</td>
<td>While</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Because</td>
<td>In order to</td>
<td>In order That</td>
<td>When</td>
<td>Whenever</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The occasion:

- ✓ Is the first part of the topic sentence
- ✓ Introduce your reason for writing
- ✓ Can be any event, problem, ideas, solution, or circumstance that gives you a reason to write
- ✓ Is the dependent clause in the complex sentence

The position:

- ✓ Is the second part of the topic sentence
- ✓ States what you plan to prove or explain in your paragraph
- ✓ Is the independent clause in the complex sentence

**Examples**

(The plain text indicates the occasion; the italics indicate the position.)

1. Although my family and I have taken many wonderful vacations, *none was more fun and exciting than our camping trip to the Grand Canyon.*
2. Even though bike helmets are sometimes unfashionable and uncomfortable, *all cyclists should wear them.*
3. Before you make the decision to light up a cigarette, *consider the problems caused by smoking.*
4. If students use chemicals to do science experiments, *it is important that they learn the proper way to dispose of them.*