



The Classical Age

The first sentence of a paragraph is called the topic sentence. The topic sentence should give the reader a clear idea of what the paragraph is about. The last sentence is called the conclusion, and is a restatement of the topic sentence. Between the topic sentence and the conclusion are supporting details. Details prove, explain or support the topic sentence.

DIRECTIONS: Read the sentences below. Identify the topic sentence and write a 1 on the line beside it. Identify the concluding statement. Write a 7 on the line beside it. Then put the other sentences in order, labelling the sentences 2 - 6.

_____ These amazing civilizations shaped much of the world that came after them, and we are still influenced by them today.

_____ The Classical Age was the age of ancient Greece and Rome, and it lasted for about a thousand years.

_____ But they eventually came under attack by nomadic barbarians, and fighting off these invaders exacted a high toll. By about 450 A.D. the Greek and Roman empires had collapsed.

_____ Greek discoveries are at the foundation of everything we now know about biology, mathematics, physics, literature, philosophy and politics.

_____ By 100 A.D. the Romans had transported Greek culture into Europe and North Africa.

_____ Greek ideas were spread into much of Asia by Alexander the Great, who at one time was the leader of the entire known world.

_____ For the most part, life in ancient Greece and Rome was secure and peaceful, as both civilizations had strong governments and formidable armies.