Find the Topic Sentence

The topic sentence of a paragraph states the main idea of the paragraph. It is usually the first sentence, but it doesn’t have to be. In each paragraph below, underline the topic sentence.

1. The battle of Yorktown was one of the most important battles of the American Revolution. French and American forces worked together to trap the British at Yorktown, leaving Comwallis no choice but to surrender to the formidable George Washington. Though the determined colonists won half a dozen significant battles during the course of the American Revolution, it was the British surrender at the Battle of Yorktown that ultimately ended the war.

2. My most vivid memory from childhood is traveling to the top of the Zugspitze mountain in Germany. The day we went up the Zugspitze is the day that I learned that there can be a surprising difference in temperature between the ground and the top of a mountain. It was warm on the ground that day, but it got colder and colder the higher up the mountain that we went. On the ground everything was green, but the mountaintop was covered with snow. When it was time to go back down the mountain we rode in a cable car. I remember thinking at the time that it was as though we had travelled down from winter back into spring.

3. Miniature golf is both fun and relaxing. Because of the wide variety of course themes, playing each individual course is like taking a mini-vacation. You can play in exotic locales like jungles or pirate islands. You can travel in time and play in different places in history. Or you can take a leap of the imagination and play under the sea, in space, or in alien worlds. For a very low price, you can take a different vacation every time you play!

4. Many people think of cereal as a healthy breakfast, but just because you put blueberries on your cereal doesn’t make it healthy! There are three reasons why you should bypass the cereal aisle of the grocery store and aim for fruits, meats, or eggs instead. Most cereals are high in sugar. Though the nutrition panel will tell you how much sugar is in a serving of cereal, it doesn’t tell the percentage of the daily allowance of sugars, so if you eat a bowl or two of cereal in the morning, it is very easy to eat more sugar than you need in day. Cereals are also a processed food. Even though grains like corn and wheat can be a healthy part of a balanced diet, the more processed a food is, the less healthy it becomes. Finally, have you ever wondered why a box of cereal will stay fresh for so long? It’s because of all of the preservatives! Preservatives have no place in a healthy diet. Your body functions best on fresh, live food. If you want to start your day out right, by all means go for the blueberries, but skip the cereal!