

The topic sentence of each paragraph has been removed. Replace it with your own, original topic sentence that flows smoothly to the next sentence and fits the overall idea of the paragraph. Remember that the goal of a good topic sentence is to introduce the main idea(s) of a paragraph and (ideally) to make the reader want to continue reading. A topic sentence that just summarizes the paragraph might make the rest of the sentences redundant and boring, so don't summarize! Give your sentence some personal style!

1. Not only was my father, Martin Luther King Jr., murdered, but my grandmother was also a victim of homicide. While many know the story of my father, years later, my grandmother was shot to death in our beloved Ebenezer Baptist Church. Both of these were heinous crimes, but despite our immeasurable grief, our faith and the racist roots of capital punishment led my family to reject the death penalty.

<https://www.usatoday.com/in-depth/opinion/policing/2021/04/17/mlk-iii-what-we-can-learn-virginia-ending-death-penalty/7226921002/>

2. Every year, it seems they have more to celebrate: Legalization is spreading, the legal marijuana industry is booming, and more and more people are open to using this particular drug, or are at least less disapproving of others' use. My own views on pot have gone back and forth over the years. At this moment, I lean against, without much of a desire to defend or to inherit all of the drug war's legacy, but with a concern that **we are rushing into this too quickly without considering the possible consequences**. I am well aware that the current reality on

the ground makes my view unrealistic.

<https://www.nationalreview.com/corner/4-20-a-dissent/>

3. Long used to cops escaping accountability for violence against Black people, the fact that there was **literal footage** of the former Minneapolis police officer kneeling on the neck of George Floyd, for nine minutes and 29 seconds last May, didn't seem like it would necessarily be enough to ensure that he would be found guilty of one or any of the charges he faced. But then it **actually happened**: Second-degree murder: guilty. Third-degree murder: guilty. Second-degree manslaughter: guilty.

<https://www.vanityfair.com/news/2021/04/derek-chauvin-george-floyd-guilty>

4. Biden **tried to justify his opposition** to far-reaching student debt cancellation by contraposing relief for the presumably affluent but often heavily indebted attendees of elite universities against the provision of more funding for early education opportunities in disadvantaged communities. "Nowhere does it say we must trade-off early childhood education for student loan forgiveness. We can have both," Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) **tweeted** at the time, adding: "Who cares what school someone went to?"

<https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/04/20/civil-rights-groups-call-universal-cancellation-50000-student-debt>

5. Trump, after all, is Trump. Did he expose potential new coalitions and growing fault lines in the Democratic base, or did his unique brand of celebrity and barnstorming rallies make him a one-off candidate? With the 2020 election results coming in, we have our answer. There was no blue wave. Trump lost by a handful of votes in a handful of states; the GOP unexpectedly won congressional races; if Republicans win the two run-off races in Georgia, they will retain the senate. Trump, the “white supremacist” candidate, won the highest share of non-white voters of any Republican presidential candidate since Nixon in 1960—double Romney’s 2012 count and nearly triple Bush’s count in 2000.

<https://www.theamericanconservative.com/articles/the-realignment-is-real/>