

Topic Sentence – Christopher Columbus

Name:

Forming good topic sentences is crucial to writing successful reports. Below is the topic sentence of a body paragraph within a biography on Christopher Columbus. There are four detail sentences that should come after the topic sentence. First, choose the four from the series of sentences below and then, form the paragraph. Start the paragraph with the topic sentence below. There are four additional sentences from those below that should be included.

Topic Sentence: After stopping in the Canary Islands off the coast of Africa, Columbus's ships hit the open seas.

| Sentence | Does it belong in the paragraph with the above topic sentence? |
|---|--|
| He appealed to the kings of Portugal, France, and England to finance a westward trip to the Indies, but all denied his request. | |
| Columbus offered a reward for the first person to sight land. | |
| Covering about 150 miles a day, the trip was long and arduous. | |
| The crew was afraid of sea monsters and grew more restless every day that land was not sighted. | |
| Finally, on October 12, a crew member aboard the Pinta sighted one of the Bahama Islands. | |
| He soon returned to the New World but never found the riches he expected. | |

Answers

| Sentence | Does it belong in the paragraph with the above topic sentence? |
|---|--|
| He appealed to the kings of Portugal, France, and England to finance a westward trip to the Indies, but all denied his request. | NO |
| To calm his fellow sailors, Columbus offered a reward for the first person to sight land. | YES |
| Covering about 150 miles a day, the trip was long and arduous. | YES |
| The crew was afraid of sea monsters and grew more restless every day that land was not sighted. | YES |
| Finally, on October 12, a crew member aboard the Pinta sighted one of the Bahama Islands. | YES |
| He soon returned to the New World but never found the riches he expected. | NO |

After stopping in the Canary Islands off the coast of Africa, Columbus's ships hit the open seas. Covering about 150 miles a day, the trip was long and arduous. The crew was afraid of sea monsters and grew more restless every day that land was not sighted. To calm his fellow sailors, Columbus offered a reward for the first person to sight land. Finally, on October 12, a crew member aboard the Pinta sighted one of the Bahama Islands.