

Topic  
**Topic**  
**Sentence &**  
**Paragraph**  
**Structure**

# Function of a Topic Sentence

- Tells reader about a single paragraph's limited topic.
- Presents your *attitude, feeling, idea, opinion, or point of view* about that limited topic.

# Parts of a Topic Sentence

- A topic sentence has three main parts:
  - Limited Topic
  - Verb
  - Attitude, idea, feeling, opinion, or point of view

# Constructing a Topic Sentence

- First, state your  
    **Limited topic**

# Constructing a Topic Sentence

Second, choose a

Limited topic + verb

# Constructing a Topic Sentence

Third, express your

Limited topic + verb + *attitude,  
feeling, idea,  
opinion, or  
point of view.*

# A Constructed Topic Sentence

Limited topic + verb + attitude,  
feeling, idea, opinion, or point of  
view.

# Example

One benefit of owning a pet + is +  
companionship.

# Example

The main reason the company president should be fired + is + incompetence.

# Example

One change our cafeteria should  
make + is + to provide delicious  
meals.

# Example

Many celebrities + dress + in  
clothes that are too revealing.

# Topic Sentence v. Thesis Statement

- A topic sentence applies **only** to a **single paragraph** within an essay.
- A thesis statement applies to an **entire essay**.

# Your graphic organizer paper will look like this!

T

RDF

RDF

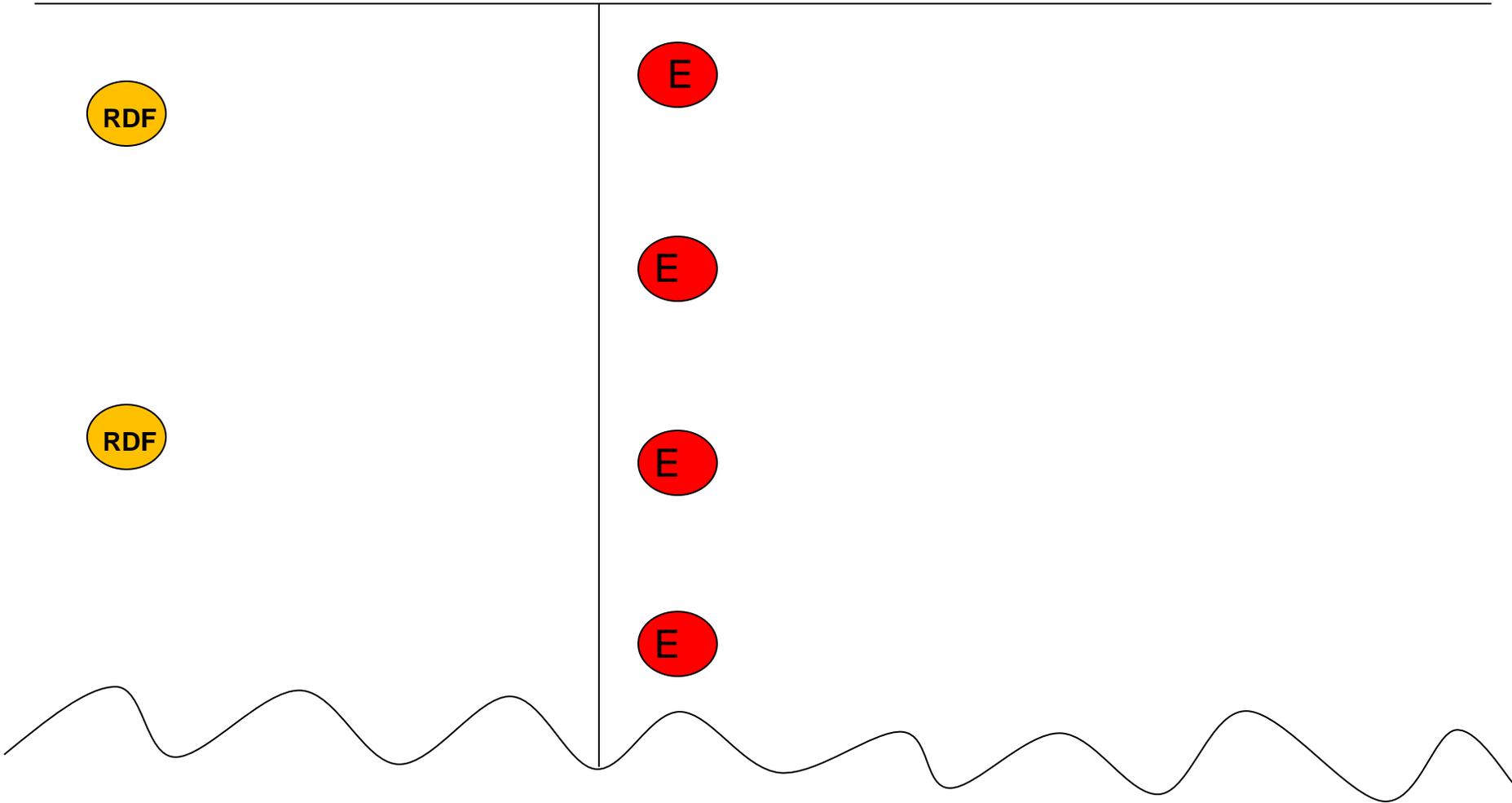
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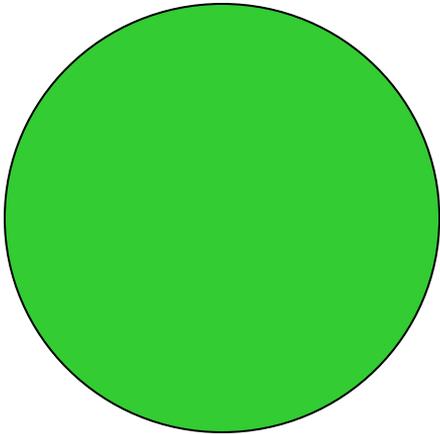
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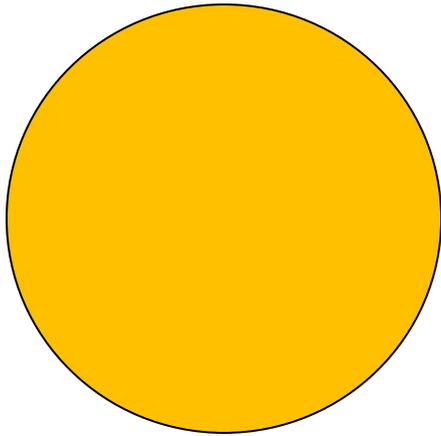


**GO!!!!**



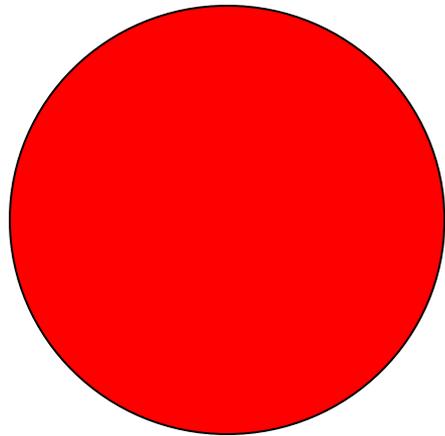
**Write a topic  
sentence**

# **SLOW DOWN!!!**



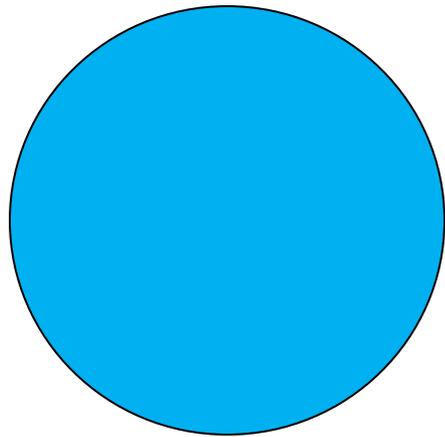
**Give a reason,  
detail, or  
fact.**

# **STOP!!!**



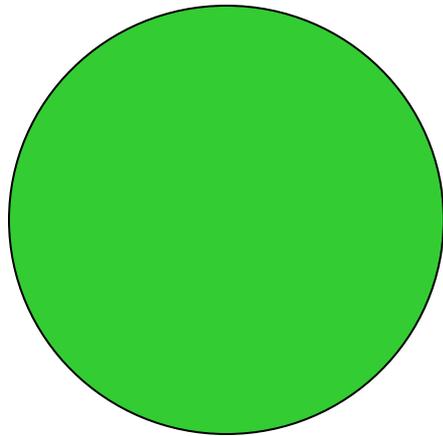
**Explain. Give  
an example.**

**GO BACK!!!**

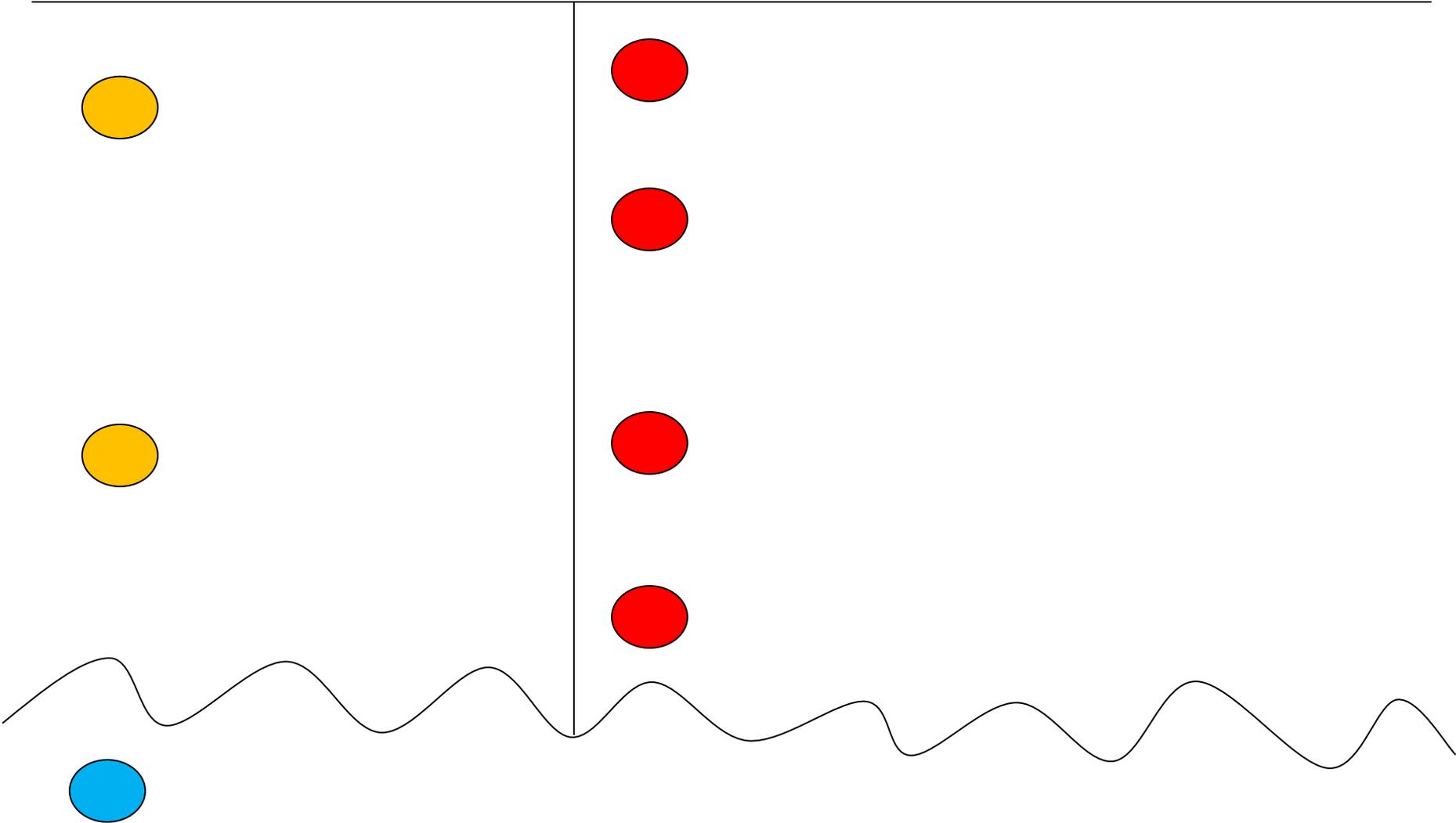
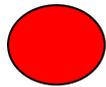
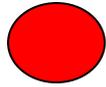
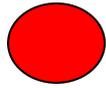
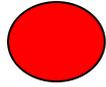
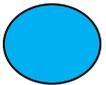
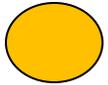
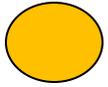


**Remind the  
reader of  
your topic.**

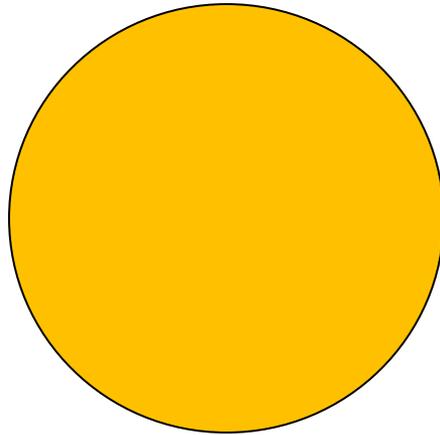
First, come up with a  
catchy topic sentence.



● Swimming is a good way to beat the heat.

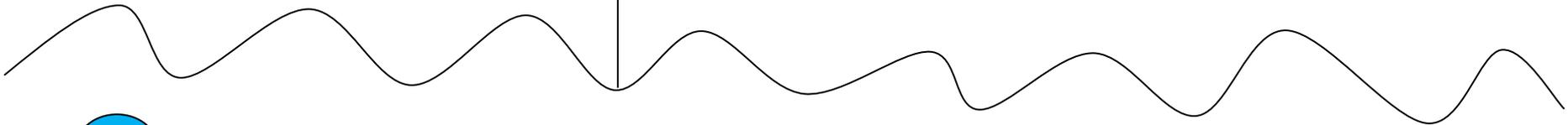
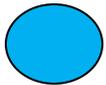
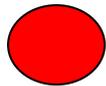
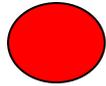
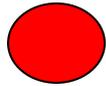
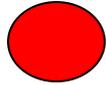
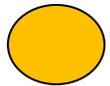


Next, give a reason, detail,  
or fact (RDF) to support  
your topic sentence.

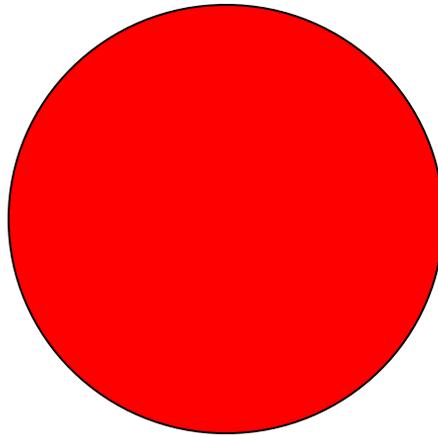


● Swimming is a good way to beat the heat.

● Swimming laps

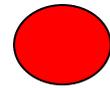
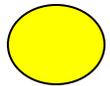


Then, give 2 explanations  
for your reason, detail, or  
fact.

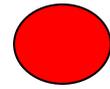


● Swimming is a good way to beat the heat.

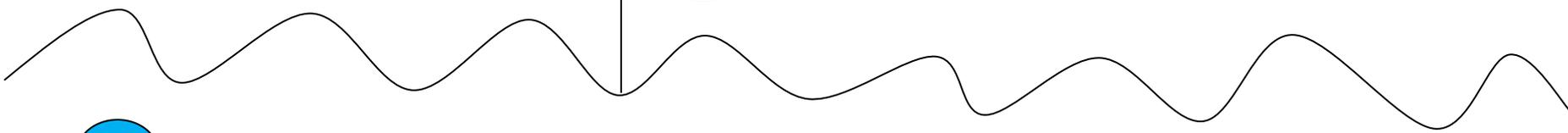
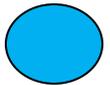
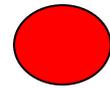
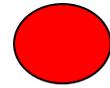
● Swimming laps



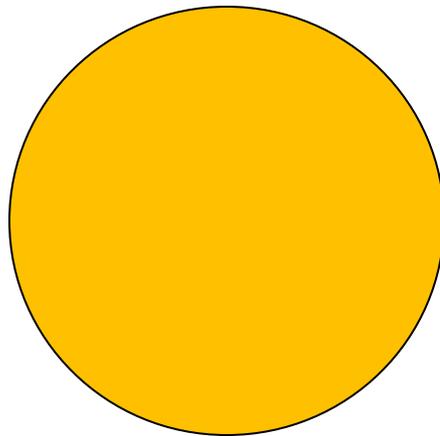
Good exercise



Improves swimming skills



Now, give ANOTHER  
reason, detail, or fact  
(RDF) to support your topic  
sentence.



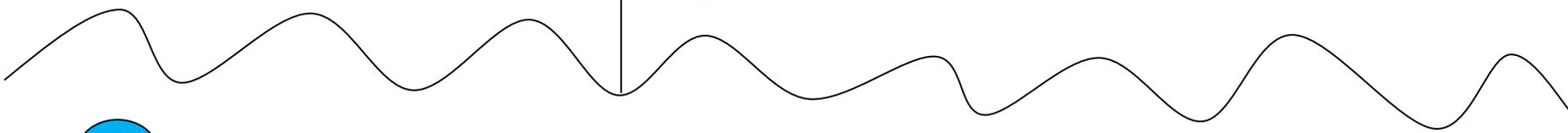
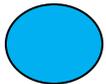
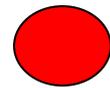
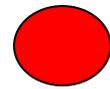
● Swimming is a good way to beat the heat.

● Swimming laps

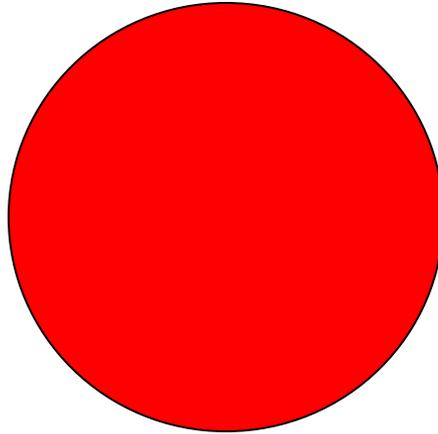
● Playing

● Good exercise

● Improves swimming skills



Next, give 2 MORE  
explanations for your  
NEW reason, detail, or  
fact.



● Swimming is a good way to beat the heat.

● Swimming laps

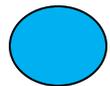
● Playing

● Good exercise

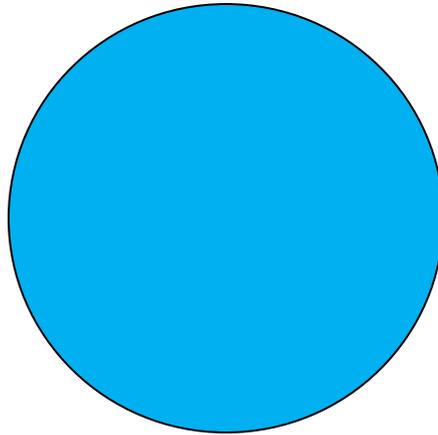
● Improves swimming skills

● Diving and jumping

● Racing and other games



Finally, remind the reader of your topic. Use new words to restate your topic sentence.



● Swimming is a good way to beat the heat.

● Swimming laps

● Playing

● Good exercise

● Improves swimming skills

● Diving and jumping

● Racing and other games

● Playing in the pool is enjoyable

Now, let's turn the  
organizer into a  
paragraph!

Going swimming is one of the best ways to beat the heat during the summer. One fun aspect of swimming is doing laps in the pool. Swimming laps is great exercise! It also helps improve one's swimming skills. The best feature of swimming, though, is playing around in the pool! One can jump and dive off of the diving board. Also, when there are many people swimming, games and races can be played. Clearly, there is no better way to avoid the summer heat!