

Topic Sentences Chronology vs. Claims

Which works better?

1. After O'Brien leaves the meat-packing plant, he drives to the Tip-Top Lodge on the border separating the U.S. and Canada.
2. While the meat-packing plant teaches O'Brien that his life is "collapsing toward slaughter," at the Tip-Top Lodge, he is offered the chance to make the correct moral choice and escape this fate.

Which works better?

Example 1:

Body paragraph 1: The first woman we meet in the collection is Martha, the love interest of Lieutenant Jimmy Cross.

Body paragraph 2: Readers then see Martha again in the story "Love."

Example 2:

Body paragraph 1: Martha, the love interest of Jimmy Cross in the collection's opening story, initially seems like a stereotype—innocent and unwilling to hear about the war.

Body paragraph 2: Yet, the second story in the collection, "Love," revises this initial presentation of Martha; readers learn she is much more than the innocent stereotype that Lieutenant Cross had imagined.