Task one: For each point below, draw a single line under the topic and a double line under
the idea about the topic.
**ACTIVITY 5**1. Billboards should be abolished.
2. My boss is an ambitious person.
3. Politicians are often self-serving.
4. The apartment needed repairs.
5. Television commercials lack originality.
6. My parents have rigid racial attitudes.
7. The middle child is often a neglected member of the family.
8. The language in many movies today is inappropriate for children.
9. Doctors are often insensitive.
10. People today are more energy-conscious than ever before.
11. My car is a temperamental machine.
12. My friend Debbie, who is only nineteen, is extremely mature.
13. Looking for a job can be a degrading experience.
14. The daily life of students is filled with conflicts.
15. Regulations in the school cafeteria should be strictly enforced.
16. The national speed limit should be raised.
17. Our vacation turned out to be a disaster.
18. The city’s traffic-light system has both benefits and drawbacks.
19. Insects serve many useful purposes.
20. Serious depression often has several warning signs.

**Task2:**

**The following activity will give you practice in writing an accurate point, or topic
sentence—one that is neither too broad nor too narrow for the supporting material
in a paragraph. Sometimes you will construct your topic sentence after you have
decided which details you want to discuss. An added value of this activity is that it
shows you how to write a topic sentence that will exactly match the details provided
in the outline.**

1. **Topic sentence:**a. They should study the hardest subjects first when their minds are most
alert.
b. They should form study groups and meet regularly at the library.
c. They should ask teachers for help when they don’t understand
something.
d. They should reward themselves when they do well.
**2. Topic sentence:**a. My mom always said, “Do unto others as you would have them do
unto you.”
b. She believed that everyone should be treated with respect and kindness.
c. When my brother got caught up in the wrong crowd, she had him
promise her that he would never hurt anyone.
d. At my mom’s funeral, so many people talked about how she had
helped them.
**3. Topic sentence:**a. My friends recommended that I try the new Thai restaurant.
b. The waiter was friendly and explained the daily lunch specials.
c. The Evil Jungle Prince was the best red curry I had ever eaten.
d. I plan to take my family to that restaurant for dinner.

**4. Topic sentence:**
a. In elementary school, my favorite subject was morning recess.
b. All I remember about junior high was playing volleyball in P.E. class.
c. In high school, I kept my grades up so that I could stay on the
basketball team.
d. Before my knee injury, I had hoped to go to college on an athletic
scholarship.
**5. Topic sentence:**
a. People who skip breakfast usually snack a lot.
b. People who eat breakfast feel less grouchy.
c. People who eat breakfast are more alert mentally.
d. Breakfast can help people lose—not gain—weight.