

# General Topic Sentences

General topic sentences for definition body paragraphs require a word indicating degree:

many / a number of
various / vary / a variety of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (“vary” is used as a verb)</li> <li>• (“various,” “vary,” and “a variety of” are used when pieces of information are very different from each other)</li> </ul>
several / some
a few
one
no / none

<b>Causes</b>	<p>X has (<i>degree</i>) causes.</p> <p>(<i>Degree</i>) causes of X have been identified.</p> <p>The causes of X vary.</p> <p>Disease X is caused by (<i>degree</i>) factors. / (<i>Degree</i>) factors cause X.</p>
<b>Risk Factors</b>	<p>(<i>Degree</i>) risk factors are associated with X.</p> <p>(<i>Degree</i>) risk factors can increase a person’s chance of developing X.</p> <p>(<i>Degree</i>) risk factors can contribute to the development of X.</p>
<b>Symptoms</b>	<p>(<i>Degree</i>) symptoms are associated with X.</p> <p>X is characterized by (<i>degree</i>) symptoms. / (<i>Degree</i>) symptoms characterize X.</p> <p>Patients with X experience (<i>degree</i>) symptoms.</p> <p>(<i>Degree</i>) symptoms occur in patients with X.</p>
<b>Diagnosis</b>	<p>Diagnosis of X is based on (<i>degree</i>) tests / methods.</p> <p>X is diagnosed on the basis of (<i>degree</i>) tests / methods.</p> <p>(<i>Degree</i>) methods / tests are used to diagnose X.</p> <p>X is diagnosed with (<i>degree</i>) methods / tests.</p> <p>(<i>Degree</i>) tests / methods are available to diagnose X.</p> <p>(<i>Degree</i>) tests/ methods are used to diagnose X.</p> <p>X is diagnosed with (<i>degree</i>) tests / methods.</p>

<b>Diagnosis</b> <i>(cont.)</i>	<p>The diagnosis of X involves <i>(degree)</i> tests / methods.</p> <p>The doctor uses / relies on <i>(degree)</i> tests / methods to diagnose X.</p>
<b>Treatment</b>	<p><i>(Degree)</i> treatment methods / options are available for X.</p> <p>X is treated with <i>(degree)</i> methods / options.</p> <p><i>(Degree)</i> treatment methods / options are available to help patients with X.</p> <p>To help patients with X, <i>(degree)</i> methods / options are available.</p> <p>Once diagnosed with X, the patient has <i>(degree)</i> treatment options.</p>