

# Inclusive Topic Sentence; Transition Sentence with Details; and Prediction Summation Sentence

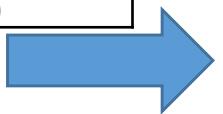
Inclusive Topic Sentence - to make paragraph unified, coherent, and clear  
(reference text here...)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2017  
Reading Dante in the Age of Trump

Soon after the election of Donald J. Trump, the sales of novels depicting life in a totalitarian state—Sinclair Lewis' It Can't Happen Here, Aldous Huxley's Brave New World—shot upward, with George Orwell's 1984 going to #1 on Amazon. (It's still at #3 as I write this.) People are trying to make sense of the mess we're in and turning to fiction as one source of understanding. Me, I'm looking back through my battered copy of the 14<sup>th</sup> Century Italian poet Dante Alighieri's The Divine Comedy, a three part epic poem depicting Dante's allegorical journey through hell, then purgatory, and finally into paradise. During his spiritual quest, Dante also comments on the politics and political figures of his native Florence, so with apologies to my distant countryman, I'm going to join him in The Inferno and indulge in a great guilty pleasure by imagining the punishment awaiting some of the key players in contemporary American politics. Donald Trump, his cabinet, and his advisors present so many threats to all that's holy that in addition to political action we need to draw on every artistic and cultural resource at our disposal to give us clarity and hope. If we're forced to gambol on the edge of the abyss, let's use every dance move we got.

Transitions – advance your argument smoothly (...or reference text here)

(Summation and  
Prediction – what is the  
future with or without  
this ARGUMENT?)



Over the year, I'll be writing further and less figuratively about the terrible damage being done to our civic language and democratic institutions. But for now... Ms. DeVos? May I escort you through this gateway, please?