

Name: _____

Thesis Statements

A thesis is just a fancy way of making a statement of what you believe and why you believe it. When you write an essay, you **MUST** clearly state your thesis at the end of the introduction paragraph. It needs to be there. If you don't have a thesis, you don't have a quality essay. The reason you write an entire essay is to prove your thesis statement. You **NEED** to remember this. Tattoo it on your face. It will be on your final.

Thesis Statement – A thesis is a direct statement that explains the topic of your essay, what you believe about that topic, and why you believe it.

A thesis statement is made up of three different parts. **Every thesis needs these three things:**

- 1) Identification (What is the topic you are talking about?)
- 2) Claim (What do you believe about the topic?)
- 3) Direction (What are the 3 main reasons you can support your claim? This will basically outline the body paragraphs of your essay.)

You will need to form these three parts into a *complete argumentative sentence*:

Identification of Topic + Claim (belief about topic) + **Direction** (reason 1, reason 2, and reason 3.)

**** Before you write your thesis, decide what you plan to argue and determine 3 DIFFERENT & GENERAL ways in which you can prove your opinion. It helps if you make a t-chart first. Sometimes it is easier to argue a certain side of an issue, and it might be smart to take the side that is easier to prove.**

EXAMPLE:

Writing Prompt: Educators often discuss whether high school sports have a positive influence on students. Some educators think high school sports do have a positive influence because the lessons learned from athletic competition add to the lessons learned in the classroom. Other educators think high school sports do not have a positive influence because the emphasis on sports often overshadows student achievement in other areas. In your opinion, do high school sports have a positive influence on students?

ID-Identify topic	Claim-What you believe	Direction-3 general reasons you believe your claim is true
Sports offered in high school	They have a positive influence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Teach social skills- Teach time-management- Provide exercise and teach benefits of hard work
Thesis: High school sports unquestionably have a positive influence on high school students because they teach social skills, reinforce time-management skills, provide exercise and show the benefits of hard work.		

Guided Practice

Writing Prompt: The state of Illinois has been locked in a debate for several years as to whether the driving age should be raised from 16 to 18. Some people feel that 16-year-olds lack the responsibility and maturity to handle the significant privilege of driving. Others argue that 16-year-olds use their licenses for much more than social events. In your opinion, should the driving age be raised from 16 to 18?

ID-Identify topic	Claim-What you believe	Direction-The general reason you believe your claim is true
Thesis:		

Individual Practice

Writing Prompt: Should cell phones be banned in high schools?

Thesis Statements

ID-Identify topic	Claim-What you believe	Direction-The general reason you believe your claim is true
Thesis:		