

Thesis Statement Worksheet

What is your topic?: _____

What background information does the reader need to know before you state your thesis?: _____

What is your working thesis statement?: _____

Test your thesis statement. Does your thesis statement:

- Make a claim that a reader can agree or disagree with?
- Reflect knowledge of the source material?
- Pick out an idea that can be defended in the space allowed?
- Limit the kinds of evidence you can use to defend it?

What evidence, examples, or arguments will you use to support the working thesis?: _____

Once you've written a draft, rewrite your thesis statement to improve it: _____

Thesis Statements Illustrated

<p>Shakespeare was the world's greatest playwright.</p>	<p>trite, not defensible</p>
<p>The last scene in "Midsummer Night's Dream" showcases Shakespeare's ability to manipulate subtle linguistic differences among his characters for comic effect.</p>	<p>intriguing, has an edge</p>
<p>This essay will show that the North American Free Trade agreement was a disaster for the furniture industry of Canada.</p>	<p>emotional, vague</p>
<p>Neither neo-protectionism nor post-industrial theory explains the downswing of the Canadian furniture industry in 1988-1994. Data on productivity and profits, however, can be closely correlated with provisions of the North American Free Trade Agreement that took effect in the same period.</p>	<p>gives context, reflects re-search, shows intent</p>
<p>The Dutch example shows that having an official policy on euthanasia just causes problems.</p>	<p>sweeping, minimizes opposition</p>
<p>Recent cases show that Dutch laws on euthanasia have not been able to deal adequately with issues involving technological interventions and unconscious patients.</p>	<p>focused, promises facts and analysis</p>
<p>Michael Dukakis lost the 1988 presidential election because he did not work hard enough after the Democratic National Convention.</p>	<p>simplistic, lacks detail</p>
<p>While Dukakis' "soft-on-crime" image hurt his chances in the 1988 election, his failure to campaign coast to coast after the Democratic National Convention was more significant in his eventual defeat.</p>	<p>anticipates reader reaction, promises debate</p>
<p>The occurrence of measles in medical settings is higher than nosocomial infections, rubella, pertussis, nfluenza, and nosocomial hepatitis B according to a survey of hospital records.</p>	<p>distracting detail, hard to follow, no context</p>
<p>In recent years, transmission of measles in hospitals has been described only rarely. New data suggest that the spread of measles in hospitals is more frequent than previously recognized.</p>	<p>shows purpose and context, promises new information of consequence</p>