

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Identifying and Creating a Good Thesis Statement Worksheet

### What is a Thesis Statement?

A thesis is a controlling idea about a topic that the writer is attempting to prove.

### Why do I have to write a thesis statement?

- to test your ideas by narrowing them into a sentence or two
- to better organize and develop your argument
- to provide your reader with a “guide” to your argument

### How do I write a good thesis statement?

Look at the characteristics for thesis statements presented below:

#### 1. A strong thesis statement takes a stand on the topic.

- a. There are some negative and positive aspects to industrialization.
- b. Because industrialization damaged the environment and exploited workers, its effects were more negative than positive.

Which thesis is stronger? \_\_\_\_\_ Explain \_\_\_\_\_

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#### 2. A strong thesis statement does not simply state a fact, but sets the stage for analysis of a topic.

- a. The Civil War took place between 1861-1865.
- b. The Civil War, which took place between 1861-1865, was the most devastating war in United States history.

Which thesis is stronger? \_\_\_\_\_ Explain \_\_\_\_\_

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#### 3. A strong thesis statement is unified, and expresses one main idea.

- a. Although some people believe that George Washington was the best president, Abraham Lincoln was much better.
- b. Abraham Lincoln was the best president because he fought to keep the country together and fought for the elimination of slavery.

Which thesis is stronger? \_\_\_\_\_ Explain \_\_\_\_\_

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#### 4. A strong thesis statement is specific.

- a. The Crusades were fought because of religion.
- b. The Crusades were fought due to religious fanaticism and a struggle for power in the Holy Land.

Which thesis is stronger? \_\_\_\_\_ Explain \_\_\_\_\_

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### Summary:

A strong thesis statement:

1. takes a stand on the topic.
2. does not simply state a fact, but sets the stage for analysis of a topic.
3. is unified, and expresses one main idea.
4. is specific.

## Planning to create your own thesis statement?

### What is a Thesis Statement?

A thesis statement is the main idea in a piece of writing. The thesis statement is typically placed in the introduction and should be comprised of two parts: a topic part, which states the topic, and a comment part, which makes an important point about the topic.

**Example:** *Recent studies of second-hand smoke (topic part) have determined that it is more damaging than originally thought (comment part).*

Thesis statements may vary depending on the particular structure of a piece of writing. Here are a few examples following the above structure:

- Narrative Thesis: *The year I left home for college on the east coast was the scariest, yet most memorable experience I had ever encountered in my young life.*
- Compare/Contrast: *Although both the MAC and PC perform their tasks with efficiency, the MAC is superior to the PC when it comes to the special needs of the graphic artist.*
- Cause and Effect: *Although rap music comments on the harsh reality of life for many minorities, its messages of violence often result in the degradation of women, the promotion of drugs, and the severance of the family structure.*