

THESIS STATEMENTS

A thesis statement is 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 do not have a thesis, you do not have a quality essay.
- The reason you write an entire essay is to **PROVE** your thesis statement.

Thesis statement – A thesis statement 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 this 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 at least 3 DIFFERENT AND GENERAL ways in which you can prove your opinion.**

- It might help to make a T-Chart or other brainstorming visual 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.**

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?

Identify the Topic: Sports offered in High School	Claim: They have a positive influence	Direction: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teach Social Skills• Teach time-management• Provide exercise and teach benefits of hard work
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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 into 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?

Identify Topic:	Claim:	Direction:

Thesis:

Individual Practice:

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

Identify Topic:	Claim:	Direction:

Thesis: