

Name: _____

Thesis Statements

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) Topic (What is the subject of your paper?)
- 2) Claim (What are you trying to prove about your subject? What is your opinion?)
- 3) Direction (What are the 1-3 main reasons you can support your claim? This will outline the body paragraphs of your essay....still, avoid 3-prong thesis statements!)

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

Identification of Topic + Claim (belief about topic) + **Direction** (reasons)

EXAMPLE: **Through its contrasting river and shore scenes, Twain’s Huckleberry Finn suggests that to find the true expression of American democratic ideals, one must leave “civilized” society and go back to nature.**

Writing Prompt: In 1984, O’Brien tells Winston that “power is in tearing human minds to pieces,” What is Orwell’s purpose in writing *1984*?

| ID-Identify topic | Claim-What you believe | Direction-2-3 general reasons you believe your claim is true |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| George Orwell’s novel <i>1984</i> | It shows the mental and emotional hazards of a government that uses power for its own sake. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Disallows any form of personal allegiance- Controls the past by eradicating or changing it |

Thesis:

Envisioning a bleak future state that banishes personal loyalties and manipulates memory, George Orwell’s *1984* warns about the psychological dangers of totalitarianism.

AVOID: “shows” and “uses” (or variations thereof), 3-prong thesis statements, statements of obvious fact, 1st & 2nd person, etc.

Guided Practice

Writing Prompt: What is the role of language in *1984*?

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

Individual Practice

Writing Prompt: In *1984* the protagonist, Winston, attempts to “stay human” in the face of a dehumanizing, totalitarian regime. What, according to Orwell, does it mean to be human?

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