

Writing Thesis Statements

Part II



The Steps:

Remember the steps to writing an effective thesis statement.

1. Find a topic.

2. Identify or write your question.

3. Answer the question in one strong sentence.

4. Gather your support.



Choose a Topic

For this task, I want you to think of a specific person. Here are the requirements:

1. The person must have once been a REAL flesh-and-bone human (like you and me).
2. The person is no longer alive.
3. The person IMPROVED this world in a positive way.
4. You admire this person.

5.

You know this person's first and last name (if they used both names publicly).



Write a Question

Your task is to eventually write a research paper (not really, but let's pretend 😊) about your topic. Write an appropriate question.

TIPS:

1. Notice that so far there is not a question. Wait....actually, THERE IS a question. It is implied! What is the implied question here?
2. Hint: During the instructions, you were told to think of someone who had made a positive contribution to the world. How can you turn this situation into a question? I know you can do it!
3. What types of things will you mention in the paper? What QUESTION will the paper answer?



You've got it! Write down the implied question.

Write a Thesis Statement

1. Your thesis statement is a one-sentence answer to the question.
2. The thesis statement has two parts.
3. The first part of the thesis is to mention the topic. (Make sure you mention the person's name.)
4. The second part of the thesis statement is to take a position or make a claim about the topic. What is your position?

What is wrong with the following thesis statements?

1. Who made the best invention of all time?
2. This essay is going to be about Thomas Jefferson.
3. Without my special person, you wouldn't be able to listen to music today!
4. Swish! Did you hear that? It was the sound of a basket in a game of basketball, which was invented by James Naismith.



Support

Don't forget to jot down the major groups of evidence that you'll use in the paper.

Take two minutes to make a list.



Instructions from An English Teacher

Hello, class! Today you are going to write an expository essay about a book or famous poem that changed your life. You must choose an appropriate work and include the title of the work and the author's name. Think of all of the influential literature that you've read **AFTER LEAVING THE FIFTH GRADE**. Your choice may be fictional or nonfiction.

This paper must be a multiple-paragraph essay, and you will have 50 minutes to write it. You may begin.

**Go through the process
to write your thesis
statement!**



Instructions from A Social Studies Teacher

Hello, class! Yesterday we took our test about the Vietnam War, so now we have studied American History from the beginning of America through 1975. Today I want you to choose one event that had the most significant impact upon America. You will then write an essay explaining how that particular event changed the course of the United States from that point on. You must choose an event that ended before 1975, since that's all we've studied.

This paper must be a multiple-paragraph essay, and you will have 50 minutes to write it. You may begin.

**Go through the process
to write your thesis
statement!**



Instructions from A Math Teacher

Hello, class! We have finally finished preparing for the big test, so now we'll write an essay. That's right; we're writing an essay! Think of an interesting career that involves numbers for at least part of the work day. Write an essay that explains why you are interested in learning about that career.

This paper must be a multiple-paragraph essay, and you will have 50 minutes to write it. You may begin.

**Go through the process
to write your thesis
statement!**



Write an Introduction

Look over your notes. Consider all of the thesis statements you've written today, and choose the best one. Write an introduction paragraph that includes the best thesis statement.

INTRODUCTION

- Grab the reader's attention right away.
- Give any necessary background information.

Mention the major evidence that you will explain in the body.

Include the thesis as the last sentence.

