

Name: _____

Date: _____

The Thesis Statement

Part 1 – The Basics

1. Explain what a thesis is in your own words.
2. Why does an essay need to have a thesis?
3. What is the purpose of a thesis statement?

Format of a Thesis Statement

A three-point thesis statement will list the three key reasons used in the body of the essay. By listing these reasons in the thesis, readers will know what to expect in the body of the essay. A three-point thesis statement will also help keep novice writers on track and organized. That is, the topic sentence of each body paragraph should relate directly back to a segment of the thesis statement. The order of the paragraphs should follow the order the reasons were introduced in the thesis statement.

Part 2 – Identification

Take a look at the passage below. In the paragraph, underline the sentence you believe to be the thesis statement.

Students often struggle with writer's block when it comes to writing Global History essays. Some students find themselves at 3:00 a.m. sitting at their tiny computer desks in a room lit by a single, goose-neck lamp. Frustration is written all over their bodies as they stare at the blank computer screen. As they wonder when the words will come, the hands of the clock move relentlessly. This scene is all too familiar to many high school students because it involves one of the most important, but least observed skills of high school life: time management. Students can manage time effectively through setting priorities, avoiding procrastination, and rewarding successes.

Why is this the thesis? Explain.

Part 3 – Create

Create your own thesis statements using the topics below.

a. Topic: *History is the best class at LaGuardia.*

Thesis: _____

b. Topic: *It is important to have an understanding of the past.*

Thesis: _____

Part 4 – Correct

Take a look at the following thesis statement and re-write it to make it a three-point thesis statement in the space provided. Remember that the thesis statement must have more than just a topic and should also state the opinion or position of the author.

Incorrect Thesis: *The Paleolithic is important because it is still remembered today.*

This thesis statement is incorrect because

A correct thesis might be:

Here is the question you have to answer in an essay, tomorrow: *What advances in technology and culture differentiated the Neolithic Era from the Paleolithic Era?*

Now practice writing a thesis that will answer this question!