

Writing a Thesis Statement and Plan



Design Benchmark LA.8.5.2 Use an organizational structure that maintains proportion among the parts of a piece of writing and gives it coherence.

Thesis Statement:

Much like the topic sentence of a paragraph, the thesis statement prepares the reader for what's to come in an essay. The thesis statement is located in the introduction (first paragraph) and all the information in your essay must connect back to it. **A strong thesis statement is detailed and focuses on one main idea.** The reader should know exactly what you are going to write about in your essay.

Plan:

The plan, located right after the thesis statement, explains to the reader what you will be focusing on to back-up your thesis statement.

Example:

Thesis Statement - Even though I have had many coaches throughout my basketball career, Coach K has been the most influential in my life.

Plan – He taught me the value of hard work, teamwork, and integrity.

****Put them together and they become part of the introductory paragraph**

Even though I have had many coaches throughout my basketball career, Coach K has been the most influential in my life. He taught me the value of hard work, teamwork, and integrity.

Non-example:

Thesis Statement – Whenever I played basketball for teams, I always had coaches that helped me learn about life.

Plan - They taught me lessons that I now use in my life.

Whenever I played basketball for teams, I always had coaches that helped me learn about life. They taught me lessons that I now use daily.

Why is this a weak thesis statement?

Rewrite the statement to make it strong. (Use above lessons if needed)

Practice:

Directions: Identify each thesis statement as strong or weak.

1. There are positives and negatives to living in Mililani. All of them affect family life.	
2. Although my friend Bill was a criminal, he still helped make me who I am today. Watching his actions prevented me from doing drugs, cutting school, and being lazy.	
3. Elementary school prepared me for middle school. It taught me to listen to the teacher, finish my work, and push to do my best.	

Directions: Write a thesis and a plan for the following.

Topic: Watching television

1. Thesis Statement

2. Plan: 3 reasons

3. Write your plan in a sentence

4. Put thesis and plan together

Now write a thesis and a plan for your topic

Topic:

1. Thesis Statement

2. Plan: 3 reasons

3. Write your plan in a sentence

4. Put thesis and plan together
