

# Thesis Statements – Practice

**Thesis statements** are sentences that writers use to **focus their ideas** and **express the main point** of their writing. For practice, complete the following exercises.

## Identification Checklists

Read the following sentences. As you read, complete the following tasks:

- A. Identify and correct sentences which are too broad or too narrow using **(TB/TN)**
- B. identify and correct sentences which announce the topic using **(A)**.
- C. Identify and correct incomplete ideas using **(INC)**
- D. Identify the thesis statements that are fine as they are using **(OK)**.

*For screen reader users, blanks are indicated by \*.*

- 1. \* \_\_\_\_\_ Manitoba is famous for its landscape, weather and Festival du Voyageur.
- 2. \* \_\_\_\_\_ Miss X can make fifteen different types of pie.
- 3. \* \_\_\_\_\_ If you quit eating out, you may save more money.
- 4. \* \_\_\_\_\_ If more people quit smoking there would be fewer government resources needed to pay for long hospital stays, expensive equipment and costly awareness programs.
- 5. \* \_\_\_\_\_ James listens to hard rock every night before bed.
- 6. \* \_\_\_\_\_ This essay identifies Canada's greatest prime ministers, doctors, and curlers.
- 7. \* \_\_\_\_\_ The movie's graphics made the audience feel like they were fighting aliens too.
- 8. \* \_\_\_\_\_ Religion is a controversial issue.
- 9. \* \_\_\_\_\_ How I arrived at the library.
- 10. \* \_\_\_\_\_ This essay concerns the role of moss in the arctic ecosystem.

ANSWERS: 1. OK, 2. TN, 3. TN, 4. OK, 5. TN, 6. A, 7. TN, 8. TB, 9. INC, 10. A

## Rewriting Statements

Rewrite the following statements to make the thesis clearer. Answers will vary.

*For screen reader users, space to write is indicated with \*.*

- 1. The government should care about mental health. \*
- 2. The TLC provides great resources for understanding how to use commas. \*
- 3. Patients like nurses when they are nice. \*

4. Dragons can be scary when they breathe fire. \*

## Topic Sentences & Thesis Statements

Read the following 3 paragraphs. **Write a topic sentence** for each paragraph. When you have completed the topic sentences, **write one thesis statement** that would be appropriate for an essay on the same topic. Answers will vary.

*For screen reader users, space to write is indicated with \*.*

1. People with good attitudes tend to be more effective problems solvers, and team-players which are the types of people most employers are looking for. Being able to see the positive side of a negative situation is a valuable character trait in the workplace. Positive thinking contributes to more productivity and workplace harmony, whereas someone who is negative and complains a lot could affect others with their negativity and result in less productivity in the workplace, which is why most employers steer clear of pessimists.

**Topic sentence:** \*

**Thesis statement:** \*

2. Nothing is more frustrating to an employer than someone who cuts corners or leaves work incomplete. Employers want to hire people who are not just positive about doing work, but are willing to put in a bit of extra effort to get the work done. If you can show an employer that you are willing to break a sweat to get a job done, they will take you more seriously as a capable candidate for the position you are applying for.

**Topic sentence:** \*

**Thesis statement:** \*

3. Passion and willingness to work hard can only offer a prospective employer so much. Unless you can show how your experiences have helped prepare you for the position you are interviewing for, the employers may decide to go with a candidate who has completed the appropriate training already. It is costly and time-consuming to train a new employee, which may make many employers hesitate before hiring less-qualified applicants.

**Topic sentence:** \*

**Thesis statement:** \*