

**SO, YOU
WANT TO
WRITE A
THESIS?**

**A LESSON IN WRITING GOOD.
... OR IS IT GOOD WRITING?**



WHAT'S A THESIS ANYWAY?!

- Great question!
- ... Well actually, it's more like the *answer* to a great question!

Remember: Thesis statements are sentences that writers use to focus their ideas and express the main point of their writing (ie: *give their answer to the prompt!*)

BUT GEE, WHY DOES AN ESSAY *NEED* A THESIS?

Well, you tell me!
(pause for
answers from the
audience...)
(.... AUDIENCE!)

**An effective thesis
statement should be:**

- ***sharply focused***
- ***clear/easy to find***
- ***specific***
- **not just a general
statement of fact**

**This helps organize the
rest of the essay!**

OH BOY! I WANT TO PRACTICE!

Are you in for a treat! Here we go! I will show you two thesis sentences and you **WRITE** down which you think is better **AND WHY!**

Ready?

- A. *The Hunger Games* is a science fiction adventure film based on the novel of the same name by Suzanne Collins.**

- B. *The Hunger Games* is a morality tale about the dangers of a political system that is dominated by the wealthy.**

OH BOY! I WANT TO PRACTICE!

Are you in for a treat! Here we go! I will show you two thesis sentences and you WRITE down which you think is better AND WHY!

Ready?

A. The bicycle was introduced in the nineteenth century and rapidly grew into a worldwide phenomenon.

B. In several ways, bicycles today are better than they were 100 or even 50 years ago.

OH BOY! I WANT TO PRACTICE!

Are you in for a treat! Here we go! I will show you two thesis sentences and you WRITE down which you think is better AND WHY!

Ready?

- A. There are several steps that teachers can take to encourage academic integrity and curtail cheating in their classes.**
- B. There is an epidemic of cheating in America's schools and colleges, and there are no easy solutions to this problem.**

OH BOY! I WANT TO PRACTICE!

Are you in for a treat! Here we go! I will show you two thesis sentences and you WRITE down which you think is better AND WHY!

Ready?

- A. There have been over 200 movies about Count Dracula, most of them only very loosely based on the novel published by Bram Stoker in 1897.**

- B. Despite its title, *Bram Stoker's Dracula*, a film directed by Francis Ford Coppola, takes considerable liberties with Stoker's novel.**

OH BOY! I WANT TO PRACTICE!

Are you in for a treat! Here we go! I will show you two thesis sentences and you WRITE down which you think is better AND WHY!

Ready?

- A. Maintaining a job while in school is the best way for students to learn time management, earn higher grades, and graduate on time.**
- B. This essay examines the effect of part- or full-time employment on college students in undergraduate or graduate-level degree programs.**

I'M READY FOR MORE THESIS PRACTICE!

- **Super!**
- **Follow the instructions on the handout to help identify if the statements:**
 - Are too broad OR too narrow
 - Announce the topic
 - Have incomplete ideas
 - Are just fine as they are so leave them alone, OK?

****When you are done, you may move to the next exercises.****

I JUST HAVE TO REWRITE MY THESIS!

- **Perfect!**
- **Have a look at your thesis on your current outline.**
 - How would you grade it based on all these exercises?
 - Would you say it answers the question clearly? Organizes your essay? Is not too narrow or too broad? Is not a general statement?
 - Take some time to do some fixin'!
 - Rough drafts due next WEDNESDAY, January 2.