

Writing Essays → Thesis Statement

Level: Middle School

A thesis statement starts your essay with clear direction. It presents a topic, narrows that topic down to a specific claim, and names the points of support for the claim (usually three) that you will develop in your essay. The formula for a thesis statement is

topic + claim + supporting points

Each thesis statement below is missing one part. Read through the thesis statements, then read the missing parts at the bottom of the page. Write the letter of the missing part in the space in the sentence to which it belongs.

Unfinished Thesis Statements

1. Working dogs ___ are usually very intelligent.
2. ___ in the summertime can be a blessing and a curse, providing employment for construction workers, resulting in safer and easier travel, but also causing traffic delays.
3. During World War II ___ collecting scrap metal, knitting for the troops, and buying stamps toward the purchase of government savings bonds.
4. ___ has many features and capabilities, but the most useful ones are the ability to make phone calls, the ability to access the Internet, and access to fun apps for times when you are waiting.
5. Baked goods rise through using ingredients such as ___.

Missing Parts

- a. children were involved in the war effort,
 - b. Highway construction
 - c. like seeing eye dogs, sheep dogs, and police dogs
 - d. A smart phone
6. yeast, baking soda, or eggs.

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