

Name: _____

Putting Your House in Order – How to Write the Thesis Statement

First of all, what is a thesis statement?

Your thesis statement is one sentence that sums up your entire paper.

It will do these three things:

1. identify your topic,
2. state your position on the topic,
3. and give the three main points that will prove your position.

Here is an example:

The topic: comics book censorship in the 1950s

The position: the attempt to run comic book companies out of business made them more successful

The points: Stan Lee's revival of superheroes, collectability of comic books, and movies

The thesis statement puts these together:

The attempts to censor comic books in the 1950s led to comic book companies being more successful than ever because of Stan Lee's revival of the superhero story, the mass destruction of comics made the surviving ones more collectible, and modern day movies bring in more money than ever.

Here is another example:

The topic: all ice cream diet

The position: is healthy for people

The points: four main food groups, healthy ingredients, and cases where it worked

The thesis statement puts these together:

The all ice cream diet is healthy for people because ice cream has the four main food groups, the individual ingredients are healthy, and there are several cases where it has worked.

For this next thesis statement, put a box around the topic, a circle around the position, and double underline the three points:

Star Wars is a successful science fiction series because it is modeled after Campbell's hero's quest, the characters are complex, and the special effects were so far beyond what had been done before.

Notice that this is a statement –not a question and that none of these statements are holding anything back for the ending. This is essay writing, not story telling.

Now you try with your own topic and categories:

Your topic:

Your position:

Three categories:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Your thesis statement:

Now go through and put a box around your topic, a circle around your position, and double underline the three categories.