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| **PRACTICE FOR THESIS STATEMENTS** |

**EXERCISE 1**

Given below are sample thesis statements. 1. Correct the errors in them

2. Circle the topic

3. Underline the limited subject

4. Double underline the main ideas

1. Computers are found in a great many offices, homes, and schools; in fact, most people expect that they will find computers in such places.

2. Gerbils are 72% cuter than hamsters.

3. It is stupid for colleges to charge high tuition.

4. Should people bother to make New Year’s resolutions, when research indicates that most people break them within a few weeks anyway?

5. The music business is pretty complicated.

6. Insurance companies are up to no good; it’s that simple.

7. I think that Smallville is probably a pretty innovative television show.

8. A seventeen inch computer monitor is easier to read than a fifteen inch monitor.

9. Bruce Willis is an interesting actor who has made many movies.

10. Cell phones are becoming increasingly popular and are in use almost anywhere one goes.

**EXERCISE 2**

1. Evaluate the following thesis statement as Good (the thesis is a focused, clear point), Needs Work (with some revision the statement could be Good), or Unacceptable (the thesis should probably be abandoned for an entirely new thesis). **CIRCLE YOUR ANSWER**

Thesis: How can women make better decisions about their retirement plans?

Good Needs work Unacceptable

1. Evaluate the following thesis statement as Good (the thesis is a focused, clear point), Needs Work (with some revision the statement could be Good), or Unacceptable (the thesis should probably be abandoned for an entirely new thesis).

Thesis: Online shopping is a total waste of time.

Good Needs work Unacceptable

1. Evaluate the following thesis statement as Good (the thesis is a focused, clear point), Needs Work (with some revision the statement could be Good), or Unacceptable (the thesis should probably be abandoned for an entirely new thesis).

Thesis: The female characters in Major Pettigrew’s Last Stand reveal predictable behavior according to their class, age, and ethnicity.

Good Needs work Unacceptable

1. Evaluate the following thesis statement as Good (the thesis is a focused, clear point), Needs Work (with some revision the statement could be Good), or Unacceptable (the thesis should probably be abandoned for an entirely new thesis).

Thesis: School breakfasts should be funded because they have tremendous benefits for all children.

Good Needs work Unacceptable

1. Evaluate the following thesis statement as Good (the thesis is a focused, clear point), Needs Work (with some revision the statement could be Good), or Unacceptable (the thesis should probably be abandoned for an entirely new thesis).

Thesis: School breakfasts should be funded because eating breakfast can positively affect academic performance in children and adolescents.

Good Needs work Unacceptable

**Exercise 3**

Each item below contains a general subject and a limited subject. Write a thesis statement for each group of words.

1. education/ distance education

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1. communication/ the difference in people’s voices

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1. work /paid vacation time

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1. dishonesty/ cheating in sports

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1. community/ volunteerism

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1. television reality shows

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1. relationships/ fathers and sons

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1. newspapers/ college newspapers

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1. family/ eating together

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1. criminal justice/ treatment of inmates

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**Exercise 4**

Write T next to each thesis statement below. Write NT if there is no thesis statement.

T NT 1. I want to tell you about the many defects in the administration's proposals for restructuring the Social Security program.

T NT 2. Al Capone, the Chicago gang leader, was nicknamed "Scarface."

T NT 3. Justice delayed is justice denied.

T NT 4. My thesis asks whether affirmative action programs are just a new form of racism.

T NT 5. It's not only poor people who get government handouts.

T NT 6. How to Grow Prize-Winning Roses.

T NT 7. This paper will examine recent proposals to reinstate the death penalty.

T NT 8. My husband is a terrible cook.

T NT 9. My husband cooks all the meals for our family.

T NT 10. Christmas shopping shows that the law of the jungle is still with us.

**Exercise 5**

In the following exercise, identify the problem with each of these potential thesis statements. Is it too broad? Too narrow? An announcement rather than a statement? Does it contain more than one idea? Or do you think the thesis is okay? Click on the statement that best expresses your answer.

1 Computers have changed our society.

A Too Broad B Too Narrow

C Announcement D More than One Idea

E Okay

2 The subject of this paper is alcoholism.

A Too Broad B Too Narrow

C Announcement D More than One Idea

E Okay

3 My childhood was extremely stimulating, although in many ways I was sheltered.

A Too Broad B Too Narrow

C Announcement D More than One Idea

E Okay

4 I will discuss the problem of drug addiction in this essay.

A Too Broad B Too Narrow

C Announcement D More than One Idea

E Okay

5 There are three important steps we could take to deal with the problem of drug addiction in this country.

A Too Broad B Too Narrow

C Announcement D More than One Idea

E Okay