

Writing "Better" Thesis Statements

Now that you are familiar with writing focus statements, it is time to practice writing thesis statements. As mentioned, a **thesis** is your opinion about the topic. To qualify as a thesis statement, the thesis should:

- be an opinion
- be a complete sentence

For example:

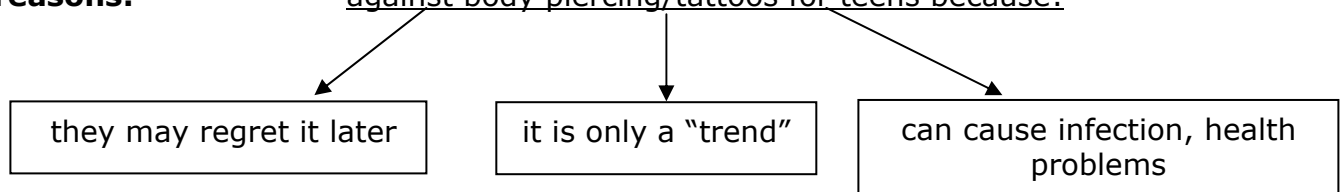
Topic: body piercing/tattoos for teens

Thesis: Teens should not be allowed to get tattoos or body piercings.

While the thesis above is technically correct, it is a bit dry and boring. To enhance your thesis statements, include support for your opinion as indicated below:

3 reasons:

against body piercing/tattoos for teens because:



*NOTE: These 3 reasons are your **thesis support**, and will eventually become topic sentences.*

The "Better" Thesis Statement: Teens should not be allowed to get tattoos or body piercings since this drastic expression of "individuality" is a trend which will eventually go out of style, leaving teens with a permanent mark they may regret later—especially when their body art results in infection or other unforeseen health problems.

As you can see, the opinion is given, but is taken beyond the dry thesis to a *better* thesis statement: one that includes a taste of what is to come later in the essay.

Directions: For each of the following topics, create a "better" thesis statement. Remember to 1) form your opinion (initial thesis statement), 2) include 3 reasons to support your opinion, and 3) write a complete sentence. An example has been done for you.

EX. The topic of this essay is the affects of smoking.

Thesis: Smoking is harmful and should be made illegal.

3 Reasons: it is addictive, it can cause cancer, it can kill

"Better" Thesis: Smoking is a dangerous, yet currently legal habit that is addictive, can cause various forms cancer, and may eventually result in premature death.

1. The topic of this essay is the differences between junior high and high school.

Thesis: _____

3 Reasons: _____

"Better" Thesis: _____

Name _____ Period _____

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2. The topic of this essay is the use of animals in testing products.

Thesis: _____

3 Reasons: _____

"Better" Thesis: _____

3. The topic of this essay is the characteristics of a good friend.

Thesis: _____

3 Reasons: _____

"Better" Thesis: _____

4. The topic of this essay is free college for everyone.

Thesis: _____

3 Reasons: _____

"Better" Thesis: _____

5. The topic of this essay is the influence of the media on teenagers.

Thesis: _____

3 Reasons: _____

"Better" Thesis: _____

6. The topic of this essay is the benefits of after school sports.

Thesis: _____

3 Reasons: _____

"Better" Thesis: _____
