

## Thesis Statement Worksheet

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

### Part 1 - The Basics

1. Explain what a thesis is in your own words.

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2. Why does an essay need to have a thesis?

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### Part 2 - Identification

Take a look at the passages below. In each paragraph, underline the sentence you believe to be the thesis statement.

3. There is new cause for concern for parents who think they are feeding their young children safe and healthy foods. A new lawsuit claims the Environmental Protection Agency is allowing unacceptably high levels of pesticides in some foods favored by children. Massachusetts joins Connecticut, New Jersey and New York in alleging everything from grapes to oranges to potatoes contains pesticide residues that are excessive for children. The EPA is being accused of not setting child safe pesticide limits as required by the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996. "These safety standards exist. They've existed since 1996. They need to be enforced. We do need to have these levels set and ideally they'll be set at 10 times the safety standards so that they will protect kids," said Massachusetts Assistant Attorney General Alice Moore.

4. While California has been the state most prone to serious earthquakes in recent years, there are many other fault zones in other areas of the United States. For example, geologists and seismologists have predicted a 97 percent chance of a major earthquake in the New Madrid seismic zone of the central United States (including Arkansas, Missouri, Tennessee, and Kentucky) between now and the year 2035. While earthquakes with the power of the one that hit the greater Los Angeles area in January 1994 are fairly rare, less severe earthquakes can interrupt your normal living patterns and cause substantial injury.

### Part 3 - Create

Add your opinion to the following topics to create your own thesis statements.

5. Topic: Pesticides used for controlling pests which can damage crops.

Thesis: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Topic: Air pollution caused by fossil fuel emissions.

Thesis: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Topic: Rainforest depletion caused by logging.

Thesis: \_\_\_\_\_

**Part 4 - Correct**

Take a look at the following thesis statements and re-write them correctly on the lines below. Remember that a complete thesis statement must have more than just a topic- it should also state the position or opinion of the author on that topic.

8. Air pollution is caused in part by fossil fuel emissions, which are given off by gasoline burning vehicles.

This thesis is incorrect because: \_\_\_\_\_

A correct thesis might be: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. This is a dangerous practice which should not be continued.

This thesis is incorrect because: \_\_\_\_\_

A correct thesis might be: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. School lunches. Yuck.

This thesis is incorrect because: \_\_\_\_\_

A correct thesis might be: \_\_\_\_\_