



**THESIS STATEMENT:** a quick sentence or two which reveals the argument of your paper. It's the blueprint of your paper, revealing what all of your research and discussion should have as its topic.

Below are some thesis statements for each side of 3 randomly chosen topics of discussion. Remember, if your thesis discusses both sides of the issue, the argument is stronger. You'll notice that all of my thesis statements use the opposition's arguments against them, while hopefully remaining civil and

professional. In an effective thesis statement, readers should be able to understand, if not agree with, any argument.

### *Abortion*

\* PRO: While it is true that many opponents of abortion are strongly and personally convicted, and that fervent arguments can be made for their cases, the truth remains that abortion is legal, and should remain legal to protect the health of mothers, and the freedom for mothers to control their own reproductive plans.

\* CON: Though pro-abortionists would have us believe that a woman's reproductive rights are the only issue at stake regarding abortion law, the truth is that abortion stops a beating heart and should not be allowed to continue in a civilized, morally upright society.

### *School Prayer*

\* PRO: Though opponents of school prayer refer to laws which prevent it, the truth remains that prayer is legal if conducted by students, and moments of contemplative silence teach respect, not religion.

\* CON: Proponents of having prayer in school argue that it is a right to be preserved, a freedom of religious expression to be upheld. But law prohibits school-initiated prayer, a law that is in place for good reason.

### *Government Regulation Regarding Obesity*

\* PRO: Obesity, especially that in young children, is a growing problem that the private sector has proven ineffective in managing; tighter government control on junk food advertisements and commercial ploys directed at children would be a socially responsible step in preventing obesity.

\* CON: Despite the fact that those who are personally affronted by obese people deem the problem to be one of a lack of government regulation, the reality of obesity is that it is a private matter, and an issue of personal responsibility—one which the government has no business managing.

### ***Thesis Statement for an Author Paper***

\* When an argument is not the basis of discussion in a paper, but the life and influences of an author are at the core of the assignment, you can use a quick discussion of *progression* to introduce the paper on an author:

“From the humble, poverty-riddled beginnings as a child growing up above a bar and grill in Memphis, to acceptance into the prestigious Julliard School for the arts in New York City, a widely varied array of experiences have allowed Wendell Ames Wadsworth to become one of the world’s foremost writers of realistic horror fiction.”

### ***Thesis Statement for a Paper on Methods / Elements of a Neutral Topic:***

\* When the paper is about the methods to achieve something, or about elements of a successful activity, the thesis statement should have three separate elements which clearly state the paper’s goal, and a counter-argument (what others who are WRONG think):

Weak one: “Though opinions on what makes a satisfied life vary from person to person, the truth remains that <sup>1</sup>love, <sup>2</sup>compassion, and <sup>3</sup>empathy are what ensures happiness and fulfillment.”

Strong one: “Many people believe that luck is the prime necessity for success, but what really makes a person successful is a strong work ethic. To have a strong work ethic, a person should <sup>1</sup>work hard, <sup>2</sup>be dedicated, and <sup>3</sup>have a clear plan of action.”

Complex one: “Often, prospective college students leave it up to their guidance counselors to make them successful at applying for college. However, the most effective pre-application steps are to <sup>1</sup>make certain your guidance counselors are part of the discussion, <sup>2</sup>research schools that regularly give scholarships for which you qualify, and <sup>3</sup>utilize the high school’s career lab to make certain you major correctly.”