



# The Writing Center

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## Directed Learning Activities Analytical vs. Persuasive Thesis Statements

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_ Course: \_\_\_\_\_

**IMPORTANT NOTE: All the activities (4) in this DLA must be completed in their entirety before meeting with a tutor and receiving credit. Where indicated, complete your work on this sheet.**

**Objective:** This directed learning activity will provide practice in writing strong analytical and persuasive thesis statements. This activity presents the difference between analytical and persuasive thesis statements through a PowerPoint presentation and written activity. Follow the directions below to create a strong thesis. **This activity will conclude with a tutor to review the activity; you should sign up on the DLA list in the computer lab now.**

### Understanding Analytical and Persuasive Thesis Statements:

#### **Drafting an analytical thesis statement**

- ❖ An analytical paper breaks the topic down into parts, examines each part, and determines how each part relates to the whole topic.
- ❖ It does not directly advocate a change of something or a particular position.
- ❖ An analytical thesis statement contains the subject and the point(s) being made about the subject.
  - Because society is becoming more diverse, enrollment in foreign language programs is on the rise.
  - Because the state has chosen to reduce funding in education, important classes have been eliminated and some of the best instructors have been laid off.
  - Because public schools are failing to meet the needs of the students, home schooling reestablishes this key concept that has disappeared throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

#### **Drafting a persuasive thesis statement**

- ❖ A persuasive paper makes a claim based on opinion, evaluation, or interpretation about a topic and proves this claim with specific evidence.
- ❖ A persuasive thesis statement contains the claim that states the particular stance on the subject.
  - Possessing proficiency in a foreign language in college should be a graduation requirement.
  - To ensure student success, the Legislature should avoid cutting community college budgets any further.
  - Home schooling is an effective alternative to the public school system; legislation needs to be passed that would allow parents to choose home schooling more easily.

**Activity (approximately one hour):**

DLA: Analytical vs. Persuasive Thesis 2

- 1. Go to Mt. SAC's Writing Center website (<http://www.mtsac.edu/instruction/humanities/writingcenter/>). On the right under "For Students," select the link for Directed Learning Activities. Scroll down and select and watch the Thesis Statement PowerPoint.
- 2. Generate one persuasive and one analytical thesis based on the following claims:
  - a. Parking at Mt. SAC is terrible.
  - b. There are many good things about public education.
  - c. Mt. SAC's swim team will win the conference championship this season.

a. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 3. Analyze the assignment prompt given by your instructor to determine if you are being asked to write a persuasive paper or an analytical one. If you do not have a prompt from your instructor, refer to the supplemental activity. Underline the verbs (like *explain*, *persuade*, *analyze*) and nouns (like *analysis*, *persuasive essay*) to see what form the writing is to take. Please note that most prompts lean towards one type of paper over another. Note: the tutor can help you to analyze your prompt.

- 4. Once you have determined which sort of paper it is, write a draft of the appropriate kind of thesis. If you are not sure which type the prompt is asking for, you could write both and then discuss them with the tutor.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Review:** After you complete this activity, let the lab tutor or assistant or front desk know you need to see a tutor for a DLA session. Discuss with a tutor the ways in which essays should develop based on the thesis statements you've composed and demonstrate your understanding of analytical and persuasive thesis statements.

Student's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Tutor's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**IMPORTANT NOTE: The activities (4) in this DLA must be completed in their entirety before meeting with a tutor and receiving credit. If your instructor wants evidence of this completed DLA, return this form to him or her with the tutor's signature included.**