



The Writing Center

Directed Learning Activities



Thesis Statements

Student Name: _____ Date: _____

Instructor: _____ Course: _____

IMPORTANT NOTE: All the activities 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: Through a PowerPoint presentation, written activity, and tutoring session, this activity explains what a strong thesis statement is and will help you practice and develop thesis writing skills necessary for academic writing.

Activities (approximately one hour): Follow the steps below and be prepared to explain your answers when you meet with a tutor. Please check off each box when you have completed the task.

- 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. Review the handout titled “Thesis Statements.” What are the six elements of a “good” thesis statement according to the handout?

1. _____	2. _____
3. _____	4. _____
5. _____	6. _____
- 3. Review the handout titled “They Say/I Say.” For two of the general subjects below, compose a thesis statement. Write something resembling the following: “General education requirements should be abolished.”

Rising tuition
College athletes

E-books
Online Classes

Bilingual education
Immigration and education

1. _____

2. _____

4. Revise the two thesis statements from above by adding a “because clause,” something like, “General education requirements should be abolished because they are too widely varied.”

1. _____

2. _____

5. Change your thesis statements so they assert the opposite, remembering to include all the features of the original: “Although the general education requirements may seem irrelevant during college, they are meant to prepare students to enter the ongoing intellectual conversations of the nation.”

1. _____

2. _____

6. **Review:** After you complete this activity, sign-up to see a tutor on the “**DLA Walk-in**” list. Discuss with a tutor the ways in which essays should develop based on the thesis statements you’ve composed. (Hint: Think of how you would outline these essays based on the thesis statements you wrote.) Demonstrate your understanding of thesis statements in your discussion with the tutor. For example, the “opposite” thesis statement creates counterarguments and supporting reasons that a writer would need to anticipate and address through the course of a position argument.

Student’s signature: _____ Date: _____

Tutor’s signature: _____ Date: _____

IMPORTANT NOTE: All the activities (5) 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.

**This activity was developed by Keith Gibson, currently a faculty member at Utah State University.*