

## Analytical vs. Persuasive Thesis Statements

This DLA is a writable PDF form. You can enter your answers directly into this document.

**YOU MUST DOWNLOAD AND SAVE THIS FILE TO YOUR COMPUTER.**

**Do not complete this form in a web browser. You will not be able to save your work.**

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

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

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

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

### About This DLA

#### ***Important Note***

All the activities (3) in the DLA must be completed in their entirety before meeting with a tutor and receiving credit. Where indicated, complete your work on this sheet. If your instructor wants evidence of this completed DLA, return this form to him or her with the tutor's signature included.

#### ***Learning Outcomes***

Through computer and other independent work, you will understand the difference between analytical and persuasive thesis statements and practice writing strong analytical and persuasive thesis statements.

#### ***Activities (approximately 1 hour)***

Read the information, complete the activities that follow, and be prepared to discuss your answers when you meet with a tutor.

### 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 typically involves a call to action.
  - 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.
  - Public schools have failed to equip students with appropriate college-level skills in mathematics because instructors are generally unqualified to teach the subject; proponents of charter schools argue that the number of charter schools should be expanded to address the need for quality technical education.

### **Activities**

Check off each box once you have completed the activity.

**1. Thesis Statement PowerPoint**

Go to the [Writing Center webpage](http://www.mtsac.edu/writingcenter/) at <http://www.mtsac.edu/writingcenter/> and review the [Thesis Statement PowerPoint](#), available under the DLA tab.

**2. Analytical versus Persuasive Thesis Review**

Generate one persuasive and one analytical thesis based on each of the following topics:

- a) Free college
- b) Parking at Mt. SAC
- c) Homelessness in LA

#### **Analytical**

a)

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b)

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c)

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**Persuasive**

a)

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b)

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c)

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**Choose 3a or 3b Below**

**3a. Practice with Your Own Writing**

Analyze the assignment prompt given by your instructor to determine if you are being asked to write a persuasive paper or an analytical one. 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.

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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**If you do not have an assignment prompt from your instructor, please complete the supplemental activity below (3b).**

**3b. Practice with Our Prompts**

Analyze the two assignment prompts below to determine if the writer is being asked to write a persuasive paper or an analytical essay. Underline the verbs (like *explain, persuade, analyze*) and nouns (like *journal entry, persuasive essay*) to see what form the writing is to take. You may be free to write either, but most prompts lean towards one type of paper over another. Note: the tutor can help you to analyze your prompt.

- **Assignment prompt 1:** Analyze the components of success in college. When you have a good understanding of the concept, explain it to your readers, considering carefully what they already know about it and how your essay might add to what they know.
- **Assignment prompt 2:** Propose a solution to a problem. Choose a problem faced by a community or group to which you belong, and address your proposal to one or more members of the group or to outsiders who might help solve the problem.

Next, write a thesis for each assignment prompt above. If you are not sure which type the prompt is asking for, you could write both and then discuss them with the tutor.

**Assignment prompt 1 Thesis:**

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**Assignment prompt 2 Thesis:**

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**4. Review the DLA**

Go to <https://mtsac2.mywconline.com> and use the [Mt. SAC Writing Center Appointment System](#) to make a DLA appointment, or sign-up to see a tutor on the "**DLA Walk-in**" list in the Writing Center. During your session with a tutor, 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. Consider the main concept you learned in this DLA. How will knowledge of these concepts affect your writing?

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

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

Tutor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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*If you are an individual with a disability and need a greater level of accessibility for any document in The Writing Center or on The Writing Center's website, please contact the Mt. SAC Accessible Resource Centers for Students, [access@mtsac.edu](mailto:access@mtsac.edu), (909) 274-4290.*

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