Thesis Statements

A thesis is just a fancy way of making a statement of what you believe and why you believe it. When you write an essay, you MUST clearly state your thesis at the end of the introduction paragraph. It needs to be there. If you don’t have a thesis, you don’t have a quality essay. The reason you write an entire essay is to prove your thesis statement. You NEED to remember this. Tattoo it on your face. It will be on your final.

**Thesis Statement** – *A thesis is a direct statement that explains the topic of your essay, what you believe about that topic, and why you believe it.*

A thesis statement is made up of three different parts. **Every thesis needs these things:***

1) **Topic:** Identify what you are talking about. When writing a literary thesis, this will be the title of literature and the author.
2) **Claim:** What do you believe about the topic based on the question or prompt?
3) **Direction:** What are the 3 main reasons you can support your claim? This will basically outline the body paragraphs of your essay. In a literary essay, you will need specific examples from the text to support each reason.

You will need to form these three parts into a complete argumentative sentence:

**Identification of Topic + Claim** (belief about topic) + **Direction** (reason 1, reason 2, and reason 3.)

**EXAMPLE:**

**Writing Prompt:** Educators often discuss whether high school sports have a positive influence on students. Some educators think high school sports do have a positive influence because the lessons learned from athletic competition add to the lessons learned in the classroom. Other educators think high school sports do not have a positive influence because the emphasis on sports often overshadows student achievement in other areas. In your opinion, do high school sports have a positive influence on students?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic-Identify it</th>
<th>Claim-What you believe</th>
<th>Direction-3 general reasons you believe your claim is true</th>
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| Sports offered in high school | They have a positive influence | - Teach social skills  
- Teach time-management  
- Provide exercise and teach benefits of hard work |

**Thesis:**

High school sports unquestionably have a positive influence on high school students because they teach social skills, reinforce time-management skills, provide exercise and show the benefits of hard work.