**How to Write a Thesis Sentence in 3 steps**

**The thesis sentence is the most important sentence in your essay. Everything needs to connect to and flow from the thesis. The thesis to an essay is like a topic sentence to a paragraph. Use the following steps to help you create a strong thesis sentence.**

1. Make the topic specific
   1. Exactly who?
   2. When?
   3. How many?
   4. Which ones?
   5. Where?
2. Continue with a debatable phrase
   1. does. . .
   2. does not. . .
   3. should. . .
   4. should not …
   5. highlights. . .
   6. ignores. . .
3. Explain the significance to the audience
   1. proving that. . .
   2. resulting in. . .
   3. making us doubt. . .
   4. reminding us that. . .
   5. showing …
   6. in order to . . .

**EXAMPLES:**

The longer school day in Chicago next year does not guarantee that students will be productive in classes, reminding us that young people need to find learning meaningful.

High school graduates should be required to take a year off to pursue community service projects before entering college in order to increase their maturity and global awareness.

The symbol of the mockingbird in the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* highlights the theme of justice by showing the reader why it is a sin to kill a mockingbird, or in other words, to hurt someone who has not harmed anyone else.

**Now you try it:**

Specific topic:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Debatable phrase:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Significance:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Now put it all together:**

**Introduction:** Attention getter,

**INTRODUCTION**

elaboration & connection to thesis,

thesis

**THESIS:** This is the most important

sentence in your paper. Everything

flows from your thesis.

**Topic Sentences:** Each paragraph starts with a topic

sentence that directly relates to the thesis. It should

repeat key words from the thesis.

Third subtopic with 2+ main points and details, quotes, and explanations.

Second subtopic with 2+ main points and details, quotes, and explanations.

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**Conclusion: Restate thesis, summarize, and end with a memorable statement.**

First subtopic with at least 2 main points and details, quotes, and explanations.