

1 period essay; what I should have:

- Finished essay
- Editor's comments
- Clear indicators of who wrote, who edited.

APPROVED:

THESIS WORKSHEET

NAME:

CYCLE:

The PROBLEM I care about is

Terms/concepts needing to be DEFINED, include

My SOLUTION to the problem is

Therefore, my THESIS (statement to be proven) is

EVIDENCE could include

Thesis statement

- This will eventually become the topic & position for your 750 word persuasive essay.
- Choose a topic you're already familiar with. You might have to do a little research to get facts straight, but you should already have a good working knowledge of the topic you choose.
- No topic is too small! If it matters to you, it matters.
- Be specific: If a problem you care about is “the environment”, choose *one aspect* of that broad topic to explore. For example, the effectiveness of Horton's recycling program.

The thesis statement

There are three objectives of a thesis statement:

- ▶ 1. It tells the reader the specific topic of your essay.
- ▶ 2. It imposes manageable limits on that topic.
- ▶ 3. It suggests the organization of your paper.

Through the thesis, you should say to the reader: "I've thought about this topic, I know what I believe about it, and I know how to organize it."

- The key to a solid essay is a clear and defensible thesis statement.
- Thesis statements such as “Rap music sucks” are very hard to actually prove. “Sucks” is an inarticulate phrase that needs to be defined before the actual argument can begin.

Manageable limits

- Manageable limits are exactly what the term describes. They set conditions for your essay.
- FOR EXAMPLE – Homework:
- Because of the many obligations and responsibilities today's students face outside of the school environment, and the need to raise funds for post secondary education, teachers should not assign high school students homework to complete over the weekends.

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- **The PROBLEM I care about is**
- Homework
-
- **Terms/concepts needing to be DEFINED, include**
- obligations, duties, responsibilities
-
- **My SOLUTION to the problem is**
- **Students should not be assigned homework on the weekends.**
-
- **Therefore, my THESIS (statement to be proven) is**
- Because of the many obligations and responsibilities today's students face outside of the school environment, coupled with the need to raise funds for post secondary education, students in high school should not be assigned homework to complete over the weekends.
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- **EVIDENCE could include**
- Personal situation, cost of education, need to raise money, improve scholarship standing through volunteer / extra curricular work.

How to Choose a Topic.

- Find a topic you know a bit about. The stronger your knowledge on the subject, the stronger your argument will be.
- Find a topic that interests you. There is nothing worse than writing (and reading) about a topic that you don't care about.
- Choose a topic you have strong opinions about. Usually if you have strong opinions about a topic, you will find it easier to write about it.

- The one or two sentences that will make both your topic and your position on that topic clear for your readers.
- “Dress codes are a major issue in high schools” – NOT A THESIS!
- “Horton High School needs to implement a more stringent student dress code that reflects a more professional environment”
- Topic is clear, position is clear. (“dress code” and “professional environment” will both need to be defined somewhere in the essay.)

Today:

- Confirm that I have your editor's comment sheet (copy/pasted to essay) and finished 1 period essay.
- Work on thesis statement.