

Research Paper and Report Writing

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

OUTLINES AND THESIS STATEMENTS

Writing Your Thesis Statement

Directions To create a thesis statement for your own research paper, think about your research and your main idea.

1. My paper's main idea is _____

2. Some of the most important ideas I learned in my research are _____

Directions Review the approaches listed below. Which approaches would work best with your topic? Pick two of them. (If you are writing about a current problem, you might want to pick *point out a cause-and-effect relationship* and *define something*. If you are writing about famous works of art, you might select *compare and contrast* and *classification*.) Then write two thesis statements—one for each selected approach. Read the two thesis statements carefully. Which one expresses what you most want to say about your topic? Circle that statement.

- Explain how something works, using a step-by-step process
- Compare and contrast people, events, or ideas
- Define something
- Classify by dividing things into groups with common characteristics
- Point out a cause-and-effect relationship

3. Thesis statement one _____

4. Thesis statement two _____

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DRAFTING

Writing Your Introduction

Directions A good introduction does more than just introduce the thesis, or main idea, of a research paper. It grabs the reader's attention. One way to begin is with a question. Another way to open is with a surprising fact or statistic. Some writers interest their readers with a fascinating story related to the topic. Others start with a striking quotation. Think about the topic you have selected and the main idea you want to convey. Now develop one introduction for each approach listed below. Continue your introductions on a separate sheet of paper if necessary.

1. Question

2. Surprising fact or statistic

3. Story

4. Quotation

Directions Now review your four introductions. Which one do you like best? Explain why you prefer it.

5. _____
