

## Access 4

### Skill: Thesis Statement

#### Thesis Statement

- The most important sentence in an argumentative essay
- Tells what the author will say about the essay's topic
- Tells the claim, or argument the writer will develop in the body of the essay
- Usually appears in the first paragraph of the essay
- Is supported in the rest of the essay's paragraphs with facts, quotes, evidence, and examples

#### Restate the Definition

Review the bullet points about thesis statements and then define what a thesis statement is in your own words. Use complete sentences in your definition.

Thesis statement: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\*W.11-12.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

#### Underline Key Words

Using key words and phrases from the essay prompt in your thesis statement is one way you can make sure your thesis statement responds fully to the essay prompt. Find and underline words and phrases used in the thesis statement that are also used in the essay prompt.

Essay Prompt	Thesis Statement
You have been reading about the many rapid changes in America in the 20 <sup>th</sup> century, some of which shaped entire generations. What major historical events, scientific discoveries, or cultural trends do you think had a significant impact on how Americans redefined themselves during that century? Choose two texts from this unit and write an essay arguing how an event, a discovery, or a trend redefined the American identity. (You may include one Blast as one of the texts.) Along with information from the selections, include research from at least three other credible print and/or digital sources to support your ideas. Remember to address at least one counterclaim to your central argument.	Major shifts in population during the 20th century, particularly into urban areas, led to huge cultural changes that continue to redefine what is "American" even today.

\*RI.11-12.5 Analyze in detail the structure of a specific paragraph in a text, including the role of particular sentences in developing and refining a key concept.

### Finish the Sentences

Complete the sentence frames in preparation for writing your own thesis statement. Then use your completed answers to help you complete the fill in the blank thesis statement below.

The central claim of my essay is \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The texts I want to mention in my thesis statement are \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The texts I am writing about relate to my central claim because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\*W.11-12.1a Introduce precise, knowledgeable claim(s), establish the significance of the claim(s), distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and create an organization that logically sequences claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.

### Complete the Fill in the Blank Thesis Statement

Use the fill in the blank thesis statement below to construct your own thesis statement. Complete the missing parts of the fill in the blank thesis with the information you plan to write about in your own essay.

Fill in the blank thesis:

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ explore the changes that

happened to the American identity as a result of \_\_\_\_\_,

a major event/trend/discovery of the 20th century.

\*W.11-12.1a Introduce precise, knowledgeable claim(s), establish the significance of the claim(s), distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and create an organization that logically sequences claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.