

5.2 Career Project Writing: Thesis Statements

Related Area(s): Technology, Applied Academic Skills

Lesson Objective(s): The objective of this lesson is to explain what a thesis statement is.

Outcome Goal(s): Students will have a clear thesis statement to begin the career research project.

Instructor Preparation Checklist

☐	Supplies and Tasks	Materials and Resources
	Media & Audio	Video player, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lrlro3YJ15o
	Websites	
	Read/Review	
	Field Trips/Co-op/Outings	
	Supplies Needed	
	Print/Copy/Laminate	5.2-A Thesis Statements (Handout I & Handout II) Peer Feedback Worksheet
	Miscellaneous	

Additional Notes:

Warm Up: Thesis Defense

Description: Watch the video [Thesis Defense](#).

Purpose/Key Skills: The purpose of this video is to set a fun and lively tone before launching into a lecture that exclusively focuses on thesis statements. It also will help to connect the concept of a “thesis” in the essay sense with the post-secondary concept of “defending a thesis.”

Notes/Vocabulary:

Materials: Video player
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lrlro3YJ15o> (video)

(1) Tips for Constructing a Thesis Statement

Description: To begin this activity pass out **5.2-A Thesis Statements (Handout I)** to be read

aloud and discussed as a class. Sample Questions:

- What makes the first sentence in each example different from the second?
- Which essay between the two sentences in each example would you be more likely to read and why?
- What is the difference between an opinion (vague, subjective, unsupported) and an argument (specific, objective, supported)?

Next, break students into groups of four or five to complete **5.2-A Thesis Statements (Handout II)** to identify the problem in these thesis statements. Give them 10 minutes. At the end of the time, have the students discuss their answers as a class.

Purpose/Key Skills: The purpose of this activity is to clarify what a thesis statement is for students before they begin writing their career project essays. The entirety of an essay hinges on the thesis statement. It is a concise explanation of what the reader should expect to learn in the body paragraphs. Therefore, before students start writing anything, they should be able to construct a good thesis statement. The following activities will help to clarify what a thesis statement is and isn't, as well as how the instructor will critique their thesis statements.

Notes/Vocabulary: thesis statement, thesis

Materials: 5.2-A Thesis Statements (Handout I & Handout II)

(2) Thesis Statement Showdown

Description: Break students into groups of three to five (whatever forms an even number of groups) and give each a potential essay topic. Give the students 10 minutes to write what they consider a solid thesis statement based on the information from the previous activity.

Next have students write their thesis statements on the board, two groups at a time. The instructor should then go to the board and talk through the process of editing each thesis statement for grammar, clarity, and the points in 5.2-A Thesis Statements. The instructor should speak aloud, explain their changes, and also use a different colored marker to edit. Finally, the instructor declares a winner between the two sentences.

Continue until each group has had the chance to write their sentence on the board and have it edited by the teacher.

Purpose/Key Skills: The purpose of this activity is for students to put their thesis statement writing skills into play in a collaborative atmosphere to help one another and to cement what they learned in the previous activity. It's also an opportunity for students to understand what

their teacher's expectations are for their own thesis statements.

Notes/Vocabulary:

Materials: Potential Thesis Topics: <https://owlcation.com/humanities/150-Argument-Essay-Topics-with-Writing-Tips>

(3) Write Your Own Thesis Statement

Description: Have each students write his/her thesis statement for their career research project. Give them 10 minutes to write on their own before assembling into their previous groups to read their sentences aloud and provide constructive review using the **Peer Feedback Worksheet**.

Purpose/Key Skills: This activity allows students to learn not only through his/her own revision but also through watching and participating in the editing process for other students. This way, students are able to further cement concepts and come out of class with a clear and concise thesis statement.

Notes/Vocabulary:

Materials: Pens/pencils, paper, Peer Feedback Worksheet

Formative Assessment

☐	Skill Description and Assessment	Notes
	Student explains what a thesis statement is	
	Student has produced a thesis statement	
	Student participates in constructive criticism	

Sources:
<https://catlintucker.com/2015/02/thesis-statement-throwdown/>