

## Thesis Statement Worksheet #5

Name \_\_\_\_\_

A good thesis statement will state the writing topic and key words of the writing prompt. For an **informational/explanatory essay**, the thesis statement states the specific purpose of the essay and may include a preview of the main ideas found in the upcoming topic sentences. The thesis statement serves as the controlling idea throughout the essay; no additional topics may be included in the body paragraphs which do not respond to the thesis statement. Usually place the thesis statement at the end of the introductory paragraph.

**Directions:** Read the definition of the **Writing Direction Word** and the **Writing Prompt**. Dissect the **Writing Prompt** with the **WHO, WHAT, HOW, DO** strategy. **WHO:** Underline any words which identify the audience or the role of the writer. **WHAT:** Circle any words which identify the topic, context, or purpose of the writing task. **HOW:** Bracket any words which identify the writing format or the resources to use. **DO:** Box any words which identify key writing direction words. Study the **Poor Thesis Statement** and the **Teacher Response**. **Revise or Replace** with your own thesis statement.

**Writing Direction Word:** **Analyze** means to break apart the subject and explain each part.

**Writing Prompt:** Service to one's country is true patriotism. President John F. Kennedy challenged Americans to "...ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country." Analyze what President Kennedy meant by this statement in his Inaugural Address from January 20, 1961 to share during class discussion.

### Question to Be Answered

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**Poor Thesis Statement:** President Kennedy meant many things when he said, "...ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country."

**Teacher Response:** This thesis statement is too general. Get more specific in your thesis statement. **Example:** There were lots of causes to the Civil War. **Revision:** Although many issues contributed to problems between the North and the South, the main cause of the Civil War was slavery.

### Revise or Replace

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