Thesis Statement Worksheet #12   **Name** _____

A good thesis statement will state the writing topic and key words of the writing prompt. For an **argumentative essay**, the thesis statement states the claim(s) of the essay and may include a preview of the main ideas found in the upcoming topic sentences. 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: Persuade means to convince the reader of your argument or claim.

Writing Prompt: The editorial from the *Reno Times* includes research studies and statistical data to demonstrate the benefits of regular exercise. The editor claims that elementary school students do not get enough exercise. Write a letter to the editor to persuade the editor and readers that elementary schools need more money to buy playground equipment.

Question to Be Answered

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Poor Thesis Statement: Every elementary school must have a jungle gym, ten swings, and four seesaws and this will cost each elementary school $22,300.00

Teacher Response: This thesis statement is too specific. Your thesis statement needs to be a bit broader to be able to respond to the demands of the writing prompt. A good thesis statement is like an umbrella-it must cover the whole subject to be effective. Save the specificity for the body paragraphs.

Revise or Replace

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