

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: Some novels and plays seem to advocate changes in social or political attitudes or in traditions. Choose such a novel or play and note briefly the particular attitudes or traditions that the author apparently wishes to modify. Then analyze the techniques the author uses to influence the reader’s or audience’s views

Question to Be Answered

Poor Thesis Statement: J.K. Rowling’s writing techniques and characterization throughout the Harry Potter series made her audience enjoy magic once more.

Teacher Response: This thesis statement is inconsequential. It is not a meaningful topic about which to develop an essay. The thesis statement must state a purpose or point of view that can be meaningfully developed in the essay. **Example:** People in France really enjoy their cheese. Revision: The French especially enjoy four types of cheeses.

Revise or Replace
