

Thesis Statement Worksheet #9

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: Evaluate means to make a judgment after careful observation.

Writing Prompt: The percentage of human beings who believe that the *end justifies the means* and that sacrificing others' well-being in order to improve one's own has steadily increased over the last decade. Surveys indicate that more people act in their self-interest than ever before. Our world culture now celebrates *meanness* and respects those who avoid kindness.

Question to Be Answered

Poor Thesis Statement: Too many people are mean in this world and this should change, so the planet can survive.

Teacher Response: This thesis cannot be argued. The fact that many people are mean is not disputed. Changing human nature is beyond the scope of an essay. An essay designed to convince a reader of the author's specific point of view must provide a thesis statement that is arguable. **Example:** Blue is the best color. **Revision:** Blue is the best color to complement a bright white background.

Revise or Replace
