

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: Justify means to give reasons, based upon established rules, to support your arguments.

Writing Prompt: Our school cafeteria only serves healthy meals. Unfortunately, students do not like their fresh vegetables, fruit, and lean meat lunches. Students refuse to eat their lunches and throw much of the food away. There are healthy options which students will eat, but the school administrators have not listened to these suggestions.

Question to Be Answered

Poor Thesis Statement: The school lunches are bad and need to be changed.

Teacher Response: This thesis statement responds to only one part of the writing prompt. Dissect the writing prompt according to the WHO (the audience and role of the writer), the WHAT (the context of the writing topic), the HOW (the resource text title and author), and the DO (the key writing direction word) and include each part.

Revise or Replace
