

## Thesis Statement Worksheet #10

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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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 district does not have enough money. District Superintendent Nora Lee told the school board that either she will have to fire teachers or reduce the length of the school year. In an email to Ms. Jones, justify saving teachers and lengthening summer vacation.

### Question to Be Answered

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**Poor Thesis Statement:** During summer vacation our family went on a trip to Yosemite National Park, and then to Death Valley, and finally to the Grand Canyon, and it was very educational, so summer vacation must be preserved.

**Teacher Response:** This thesis statement confuses the writing genre, bringing in narrative elements to the essay. An essay introduction doesn't use a *hook* or *lead*, as does a narrative introduction. An essay introduction builds reader interest and understanding of the thesis statement, but keeps a formal essay tone. So, avoid "It was a dark and stormy night."

### Revise or Replace

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