

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.

Write a **Question To Be Answered**, analyze the **Poor Thesis Statement** after reading the **Teacher Response**, and then **Revise or Replace** with your own thesis statement.

Writing Direction Word: Examine means to inspect the details closely and test according to a standard.

Writing Prompt: Everyone who watches television is affected by the content of television commercials. The author of this article details both the positive and negative effects of these commercials on children. Examine how television commercials influence children in a two-minute oral presentation to your classmates and teacher.

Question to Be Answered

Poor Thesis Statement: Children watch a lot of television commercials.

Teacher Response: This thesis statement does not state the specific purpose of the essay. In an essay that requires the writer to inform the reader, the thesis statement should state a specific reason or objective for writing. The thesis statement serves as the controlling idea throughout the essay.

Revise or Replace
