

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: Explain means to make something clear or easy to understand.

Writing Prompt: Most people have read a book or seen a play, movie, or television program that affected their feelings or behavior in some important way. Select such an experience of your own. Explain how the book, play, movie, or television program influenced you.

Question to Be Answered

Poor Thesis Statement: There are thousands of books, plays, movies, and television programs. are important.

Teacher Response: This thesis statement does not state the purpose of the essay. Dissect the writing prompt, focusing on the WHAT (the context of the writing topic), the HOW (the resource text title and author), and the DO (the key writing direction word) to specifically state the purpose of your essay.

Revise or Replace
