

# Thesis Sentences





# Not Too Broad or Too Narrow

For each pair of sentences below, select the one that you think would make the more effective thesis in the introductory paragraph of a short essay (approximately 400 to 600 words).

- (a) *The Hunger Games* is a science fiction adventure film based on the novel of the same name by Suzanne Collins.

(b) *The Hunger Games* is a morality tale about the dangers of a political system that is dominated by the wealthy.
- (a) There is no question that cell phones have changed our lives in a very big way.

(b) While cell phones provide freedom and mobility, they can also become a leash, compelling users to answer them anywhere and at any time.



# Not Too Broad or Too Narrow

For each pair of sentences below, select the one that you think would make the more effective thesis in the introductory paragraph of a short essay (approximately 400 to 600 words).

3. (a) Finding a job is never easy, but it can be especially hard when the economy is still feeling the effects of a recession and employers are reluctant to hire new workers.(b) College students looking for part-time work should begin their search by taking advantage of job-finding resources on campus.
4. (a) For the past three decades, coconut oil has been unjustly criticized as an artery-clogging saturated fat.(b) Cooking oil is plant, animal, or synthetic fat that is used in frying, baking, and other types of cooking.



# Problematic Thesis Sentences

Identify the problems with the thesis sentences to the right. Revise each one.

1. A well-written business letter has no errors in spelling.
2. Advertising contains images of both men and women.
3. Advertisers can influence reader's attitudes toward competing products.
4. Public-school budget cuts will negatively affect education.
5. The purpose of my paper is to show that businesses lose money due to inefficiency competition, and inflated labor costs.
6. Circus acts fall into three categories: animal, clown, and acrobatic.



# Problematic Thesis Sentences

Identify the problems with the thesis sentences to the right. Revise each one.

1. A well-written business letter has no errors in spelling. **Too detailed**
2. Advertising contains images of both men and women. **Lacks an assertion**
3. Advertisers can influence reader's attitudes toward competing products. **Too general**
4. Public-school budget cuts will negatively affect education. **Does not suggest organization**
5. The purpose of my paper is to show that businesses lose money due to inefficiency competition, and inflated labor costs. **Direct announcement**
6. Circus acts fall into three categories: animal, clown, and acrobatic. **Predictable**



# Problematic Thesis Sentences

Identify the problems with the thesis sentences to the right. Revise each one.

1. A well-written business letter has no errors in spelling. **Too detailed**  
**To write a grammatically correct business letter, writers should follow three simple rules.**
2. Advertising contains images of both men and women. **Lacks an assertion**  
**In general, three factors lead advertising to present men more favorably than women.**
3. Advertisers can influence reader's attitudes toward competing products. **Too general**  
**Athletic-shoe advertisers focus more on attitude and image than on the actual physical differences between their product and those of their competitors.**



# Problematic Thesis Sentences

Identify the problems with the thesis sentences to the right. Revise each one.

4. Public-school budget cuts will negatively affect education. **Does not suggest organization**  
**Public-school budget cuts will negatively affect academic achievement, student motivation, and the drop-out rate.**
5. The purpose of my paper is to show that businesses lose money due to inefficiency competition, and inflated labor costs. **Direct announcement**  
**Businesses lose money due to inefficiency, competition, and inflated labor costs.**
6. Circus acts fall into three categories: animal, clown, and acrobatic. **Predictable**  
**Each of the three categories of circus acts – animals, clown, and acrobatic – is exciting because of the risks it involves.**



# Tips for Grouping Ideas

Categories

Discrimination exists in the workplace, in social situations, and in politics.





# Tips for Grouping Ideas

Chronologically

Tracing metal working from its early beginnings in history to modern times reveals certain social and economic patterns.



# Tips for Grouping Ideas

Similarities and differences

Two early biologists, Darwin and Mendel, held similar views about evolution.



# Tips for Grouping Ideas

Causes and effects or  
problems and solutions

Both employer and employees must  
work together to improve low  
morale in an office.



# Tips for Grouping Ideas

Advantages and disadvantages or pros and cons

Playing on a college sports team has many advantages but also several serious drawbacks.

# Topics

**Directions:** Working in groups of 2-3 students, choose one of the topics below and write a thesis sentence for a 500-word essay.

1. Advertisements
2. Spam
3. Colleges
4. News reporting
5. Politicians
6. Wildlife preservation
7. Parenting