Essays- Thesis and Brainstorming practice

1. *Thesis statement practice*- Create a thesis statement you could try to prove about each of the following topics.

For example- *Topic*: School- *Thesis statement*: School is important for your future. (If you want you can change 5 of the topics to ones of your own choice)

1. Success
2. Accomplishments
3. Mistakes
4. Growing up
5. Fear
6. Winning
7. Losing
8. Family
9. Friends
10. Pride
11. Being selfish
12. Standing up for yourself
13. Self esteem
14. Jealousy
15. Anger
16. Sadness
17. Happiness
18. Overcoming obstacles
19. Determination
20. Values/Beliefs

2. Pick 7 of the thesis statements you created and brainstorm a list of 5 reasons that would support each thesis statement. Then pick the best 3 reasons for each thesis statement brainstorm by putting a star beside them.

Thesis statement #1- school is important for your future. (do this on your own paper)

reason 1

reason 2 \*

reason 3 \*

reason 4

reason 5\*

1. Once you have done this complete the following charts for your best 4 thesis statements and their three reasons.

THESIS STATEMENT BRAINSTORMING CHART FOR INTRODUCTION

Thesis statement #1- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| --- | --- |
| Reason #1 |  |
| Reason #2 |  |
| Reason #3 |  |

Thesis statement #2- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| --- | --- |
| Reason #1 |  |
| Reason #2 |  |
| Reason #3 |  |

Thesis statement #3- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| --- | --- |
| Reason #1 |  |
| Reason #2 |  |
| Reason #3 |  |

Thesis statement #4- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| --- | --- |
| Reason #1 |  |
| Reason #2 |  |
| Reason #3 |  |

Notes on Essays:

Thesis statement- the statement in your essay that states what point you are trying to prove. It must be an opinion and not a fact. Your thesis should try to prove a point that is worth knowing about, so it should be able to answer the question- so what? In other words, there should be a good reason why someone would want to read your thoughts on the issue.

Questions to ask yourself to see if your thesis statement is ok.

1. Is it a fact or an opinion? If someone can disagree with it then it is an opinion and it could be a thesis statement.

2. Is it narrow enough to write about in a 5 paragraph essay? (Can you think of 3 reasons to support it that you could write a paragraph about each of the 3 reasons with at least 2 good reasons, examples and explanations of support?) Is there enough information to support your thesis statement?

3. Is it too big? Could you write a book about it? If so it may need to be narrowed down.

4. Does it have a “so what’ factor? will people care?