

Should Remembrance Day be a Legal Holiday?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Developing a Thesis Statement¹

A thesis is a formal way of making a statement about what you believe and why you believe it. When you write an essay, or prepare an argument, you must clearly state your thesis in your introduction.

A thesis statement is not just a statement of fact. It is a direct statement that explains the topic or issue, what you believe, and why you believe it.

A thesis statement is made up of three different parts. Every thesis requires these three parts:

1. **Identification** (What is the issue/topic you are considering?)
2. **Claim** (What do you believe about this topic/issue?)
3. **Evidence** (What are the three main reasons that support your claim?)

In developing a thesis statement, you need to formulate these three parts into a complete statement:

Example:

Writing Prompt: Educators often debate whether school sports have a positive or negative influence on student academic abilities. Some educators think that school sports have a positive influence, since the lessons learned from athletic competition help students to become more confident in their other activities. Other educators think that school sports have a negative influence, since participation takes away from time spent in academic studies. In your opinion, do school sports have a positive or negative influence on student academic abilities?

Identification (Topic/issue)	Claim (What you believe)	Evidence (3 reasons why)
Relationship between sport and good grades	They have a positive influence	1. Teach social skills; 2. Teach time-management; 3. Teach benefits of hard work.

Thesis: There is definitely a relationship between sport and good grades, since participation in school sports teach social skills, as well as time management, and show students the benefits of hard work.

¹ Adapted from the Santa Ana Unified School District. Retrieved from: <http://www.sausd.us/> (October 4, 2015)

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Guided Practice:

Writing Prompt: In the province of Alberta, an individual can obtain a learner's permit to drive a car at the age of 14. In New Brunswick the minimum age is 16. Some people feel that the driving age in New Brunswick should also be reduced to 14, since a difference of two years has little impact on a person's ability to drive. Others feel that the minimum age should remain at 16, since 14 and 15-year-olds lack the necessary maturity to drive a motor vehicle.

Identification (Topic/issue)	Claim (What you believe)	Evidence (3 reasons why)
Thesis:		

Individual Practice: *Should Remembrance Day be a Legal Holiday?*

Writing Prompt: Veterans groups are divided in Canada as to whether Remembrance Day should be made a legal holiday throughout the nation. In some provinces it is, while in others it is not. Judging by the evidence you have available, in your opinion, should Remembrance Day become a national holiday?

Identification (Topic/issue)	Claim (What you believe)	Evidence (3 reasons why)
Thesis:		