

## Examples to Reference during Lecture on Thesis Statements

Example purpose statements	
<b>1</b>	<p>a. This paper will look at modern language to see if it reflects male dominance or female oppression.</p> <p>b. I plan to analyze anger and derision in offensive language to see if they represent a challenge of society's authority.</p>
Strategies that Work	
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Assignment:</b> Discuss the history of the Reform Party and explain its influence on the 1990 presidential and Congressional election.</p> <p><b>Purpose Statement:</b> This paper briefly sketches the history of the grassroots, conservative, Perot-led Reform Party and analyzes how it influenced the economic and social ideologies of the two mainstream parties.</p>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Assignment:</b> What do Alymer and Rappaccini have to be proud of? Why aren't they satisfied with these things? How does pride, as demonstrated in "The Birthmark" and "Rappaccini's Daughter," lead to unexpected problems?</p> <p><b>Beginning thesis statement:</b> Alymer and Rappaccinni are proud of their great knowledge; however, they are also very greedy and are driven to use their knowledge to alter some aspect of nature as a test of their ability. Evil results when they try to "play God."</p>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Main idea:</b> The reason some toys succeed in the market is that they appeal to the consumers' sense of the ridiculous and their basic desire to laugh at themselves.</p>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Sample formulas for working thesis:</b></p> <p>A. Although most readers of _____ have argued that _____, closer examination shows that _____.</p> <p>B. _____ uses _____ and _____ to prove that _____.</p> <p>C. Phenomenon X is a result of the combination of _____, _____, and _____.</p>
Refining the Thesis	
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Assignment:</b> <i>Choose an activity and define it as a symbol of American culture. Your essay should cause the reader to think critically about the society which produces and enjoys that activity.</i></p> <p><b>Temporary Thesis:</b> <i>The phenomenon of drive-in facilities is an interesting symbol of American culture, and these facilities demonstrate significant characteristics of our society.</i></p>
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Version A:</b> <i>Drive-ins are an interesting symbol of American culture because they represent Americans' significant creativity and business ingenuity.</i></p>
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Version A (revised):</b> <i>Among the types of drive-in facilities familiar during the twentieth century, drive-in movie theaters best represent American creativity, not merely because they were the forerunner of later drive-ins and drive-throughs, but because of their impact on our culture: they changed our relationship to the automobile, changed the way people experienced movies, and changed movie-going into a family activity.</i></p>
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Version B:</b> <i>While drive-in facilities such as those at fast-food establishments, banks, pharmacies, and dry cleaners symbolize America's economic ingenuity, they also have affected our personal standards.</i></p>
<b>10</b>	<p><b>Version B (revised):</b> <i>While drive-in facilities such as those at fast-food restaurants, banks, pharmacies, and dry cleaners symbolize Americans' business ingenuity, they also have contributed to an increasing homogenization of our culture, a willingness to depersonalize relationships with others, and a tendency to sacrifice quality for convenience.</i></p>