

DECIDING IF A THESIS MEETS THE CRITERIA

Directions: Read over the five criteria of a good thesis statement below. Then read the bad thesis statements and decide which of the criteria each thesis does NOT meet. Explain what criteria each thesis does not meet and why in the third column.

CRITERIA FOR A GOOD THESIS STATEMENT: The Five D's

- DEBATEABLE – the thesis has two (or more) sides that people could disagree on
- DEFENDABLE – you will be able to find evidence to support your thesis
- DISTINCT – the thesis is about a topic that is important, that the reader will care about
- DOABLE – the thesis is clear and focused
- DOESN'T USE THE FIRST PERSON – do not use "I," "us," "we," or "me" in your thesis

BAD THESIS	CRITERIA NOT MET?	WHY NOT MET?
<i>Vegetables and fruits are healthy choices for snacks.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DEBATEABLE <input type="checkbox"/> DEFENDABLE <input type="checkbox"/> DISTINCT <input type="checkbox"/> DOABLE <input type="checkbox"/> DOESN'T USE 1 st PERSON	<i>There is nothing to debate. No one says that vegetables and fruits are bad for your health. Everyone agrees they are healthy.</i>
Homework has negative effects on students.	<input type="checkbox"/> DEBATEABLE <input type="checkbox"/> DEFENDABLE <input type="checkbox"/> DISTINCT <input type="checkbox"/> DOABLE <input type="checkbox"/> DOESN'T HAVE 1 st PERSON	
I believe that video games are bad.	<input type="checkbox"/> DEBATEABLE <input type="checkbox"/> DEFENDABLE <input type="checkbox"/> DISTINCT <input type="checkbox"/> DOABLE <input type="checkbox"/> DOESN'T HAVE 1 st PERSON	
It's probably better to start school at a later time.	<input type="checkbox"/> DEBATEABLE <input type="checkbox"/> DEFENDABLE <input type="checkbox"/> DISTINCT <input type="checkbox"/> DOABLE <input type="checkbox"/> DOESN'T HAVE 1 st PERSON	
There are many reasons why schools should have extra-curricular activities.	<input type="checkbox"/> DEBATEABLE <input type="checkbox"/> DEFENDABLE <input type="checkbox"/> DISTINCT <input type="checkbox"/> DOABLE <input type="checkbox"/> DOESN'T HAVE 1 st PERSON	