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**SSC – 245**

**Creating 2-Part Thesis Statements**

There is no single “correct” form for a thesis statement. If the prompt calls for an argument, the two-part thesis form may help you quickly construct an appropriate thesis statement in response to the prompt. When creating a 2-part thesis, remember that you must include both parts:

1. The topic of discussion
2. Your position or viewpoint on the topic

You do not need to memorize the patterns below; ultimately, *they are all variations of the two-part thesis* introduced above. You can use these as models to help you write your own thesis statements, but remember that these patterns are not magic formulas and may not work for every type of essay you write in college.

PATTERN 1 (EXPLANATION)

**Part 1:** Topic / **Part 2:** What you will explain about that topic

EXAMPLE: Much of the controversy about abortion is based on differences in the definition of when life begins.

PATTERN 2 (CLAIM AND SUPPORT)

**Part 1:** A position (point of view) on a topic) / **Part 2:** Why that position is appropriate

EXAMPLE: Chemicals should not be used on home lawns because they pollute the environment, including the water supply.

\*Note: The word “because” always answers the question “why.”

PATTERN 3 (CONTRASTING VIEWS)

**Part 1:** One view of a topic / **Part 2:** Contrasted with another view of the topic

EXAMPLE: Some literary critics have argued that *The Kite Runner* is an important book because of its treatment of Middle Eastern culture, but its most significant aspect is its study of integrity.

\*Note: The word “but” above shows the contrasting viewpoint.

PATTERN 4 (PROBLEM AND SOLUTION)

**Part 1:** Topic problem / **Part 2:** How it could be solved

EXAMPLE: Many students get to college unprepared to do research papers, so more research skills should be taught in high schools.

\*Note: The word “so” (or a similar word, such as “therefore”) shows the transition from problem to solution.

PATTERN 5 (STATUS QUO AND WHY IT IS WRONG)

**Part 1:** Topic and current circumstances (status quo) / **Part 2:** Why the status quo needs to be changed

EXAMPLE: Although the death penalty is currently legal in thirty-one states, it should be abolished primarily because it is inhumane and does not deter violent crime.

\*Note: The word “although” above indicates that a contrary position is coming.

PATTERN 6 (STATUS QUO AND RECOMMENDATION)

**Part 1:** Topic and status quo / **Part 2:** Recommendation to improve the status quo

EXAMPLE: Although elementary age children get some exercise in P.E. classes, to be healthy, they need a greatly increased activity level outside of P.E. time.

\*Note: The dependent clause, which begins with *although*, acknowledges present circumstances while the independent clause, which begins with *they need*, recommends an improvement.