



Towards a Common Language

Developing the Thesis Statement Across the Curriculum

A Guide for Coaches

Lorraine Richardson, Instructional and Literacy Coach
Chief Visionary Officer, www.conversationswithacoach.com

Lorraine Richardson
www.conversationswithacoach.com

Objectives:

Participants will:

- Define thesis statement, topic sentence.
- Identify models and non-models.
- Create a thesis statement
- Define unity as it relates to a thesis statement
- Identify sentences/ideas that keep a paragraph from being unified.

Thesis Statement



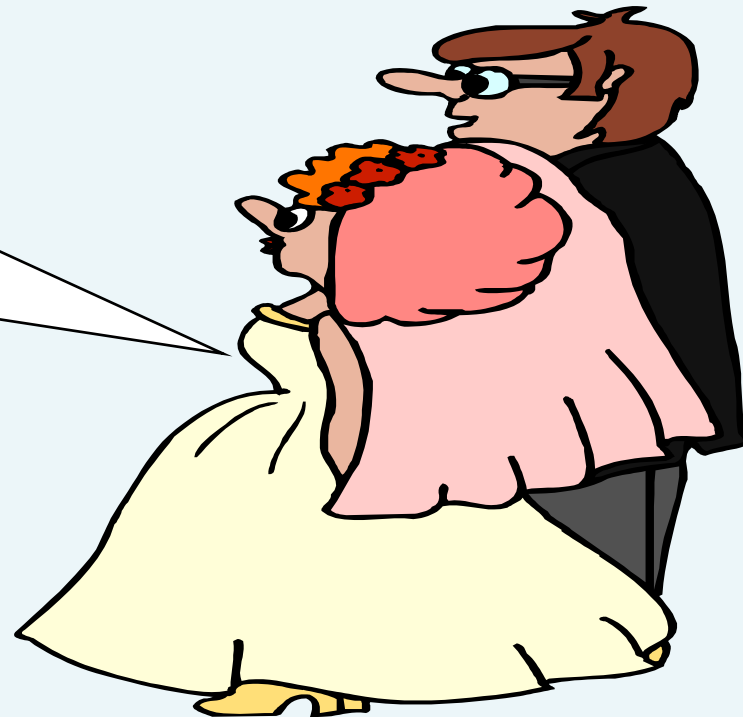
Must Cover

A custom made statement that controls all of the information in the essay. Most important statement in the paper. Can be implied or stated.

***Should Be
Interesting and to
the Point!***

You Are Interesting, and You Captured My Attention!

**I promise;
I vow;
I commit,**



**“Consistent, Predicable
Results Require a
Common Language.”**

Write A Thesis Statement!



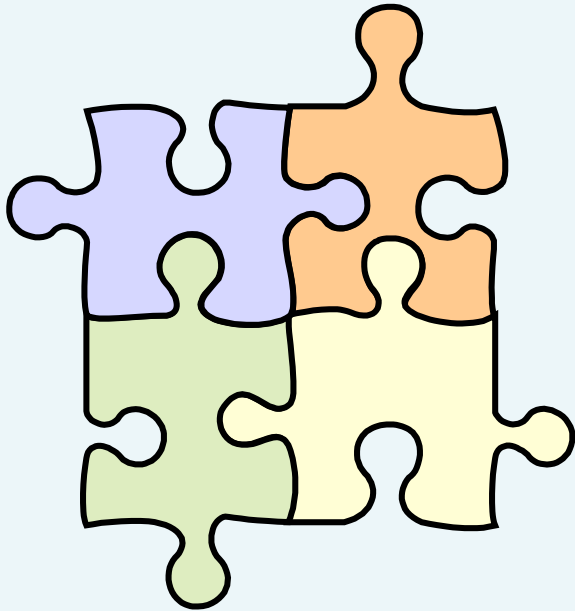
- I. Write an explanation of a concept for a classmate who has been absent from class.
- II. There is a nuclear power station near the school. Write a letter to your congressman that will convince that such a station is a life threatening hazard.
- III. Write about a positive or negative experience with math or social studies or art, etc. that you have never forgotten.

Thesis Statement Non Models

- A. Too broad, wide, unwieldy
- B. Too small, narrow, a detail
- C. Announces the main idea
- D. One word disqualifies the sentence
- E. Is a title



Thesis Statement and the Concept of Oneness/Unity



All ideas, examples, details stick to the thesis.

There should be no extra(neous) details or information.

Identify the sentence that cause the paragraph to lack oneness.

Lorraine Richardson

www.conversationswithacoach.com

Final Checkup

Participants:

- Define thesis statement, topic sentence.
- Identify models and non-models, reasons a sentence might not really be a model thesis statement.
- Can you define unity as it relates to a thesis statement
- Can you discuss why a sentence or idea might keep a paragraph from being unified?
- Are you satisfied with your thesis/topic sentence? Why or why not.

Next Steps

How do you want to implement this concept?

In one of my high schools, the principal enlarged the umbrella concept into a giant poster. She distributed them to every classroom to remind students and teachers that we share a common language and that writing is not just the domain the Language Arts teachers.

Eventually parents were able to reinforce the concept at home.

Writing scores improved each year.