

THESIS SENTENCE TEMPLATES

A **thesis sentence** is a sentence in the introduction that tells the reader what the topic or argument of the essay is. Experienced writers have little difficulty writing thesis sentences. This is because they have read and written thousands of them.

You, the *emerging writer*, don't have it so easy. So, you have to accelerate the process. You do this via **thesis sentence templates**. A thesis sentence template is the basic machinery of a thesis sentence, what makes it work. It is like a car minus the hood, the doors, the engine, the side panels, the wheels, and the air conditioner. On that basic structure, thousands of different cars can be built. From a thesis sentence template, thousands of thesis sentences can be constructed.

The introduction for any piece of writing is *very* important. This is where you establish a relationship with the reader. The introduction will always be read, while the body of the paper might sometimes be glossed over (not carefully read) by graders of standardized tests like the SAT® or TOEFL®.

➔ HOW THE THESIS SENTENCE TEMPLATES WORK

Each type of thesis sentence presented in this section is followed by two or three examples of how very different thesis sentences can be written using the template. Then you will write two or three thesis sentences of your own using the template. If you find the template difficult, just do one sentence on your own. But the more you practice, the better you will be at writing templates. Note that when suggestions for filling in the blanks are supplied, the small list represents just a fraction of the thousands of possible words you could use, as long it's the same part of speech.

By the time you finish writing your versions of all of the template sentences, the syntactic models that native speakers have in their heads will be more firmly implanted in your head. Any time you write an essay, review the templates. Keep a favorite in mind, one that you can use whenever you need it, especially when writing under the pressure of time constraints.

You are not expected to be able to use all of the thesis sentence templates successfully. The idea is for you to find a few that you can use and reuse with confidence. In preparation for a writing test, memorize a couple of them, and use the one that seems to fit the topic best.

If you cannot write your own variation of a template, that's FINE! It just means that that template is not for you. Forget about it. Concentrate on templates that you are comfortable with. Finding the right template is like finding the right pair of pants. You try them on until some fit.

➔ I. COMPARISON/CONTRAST THESIS SENTENCES

These templates can be used for essays where you are instructed to compare and contrast.

Comparison/Contrast Template 1

**The differences [similarities] between _____
and _____ are _____, and they _____**

pronounced

deserve

striking

merit

thorough

_____.

investigation

rigorous

scrutiny

examination

Examples

The differences between college and high school are pronounced, and they deserve thorough investigation.

The similarities between R-rated movies and PG-rated movies are pronounced, and they merit rigorous scrutiny.

Your Thesis Sentences

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Comparison/Contrast Template 2

_____ **some** _____ **similarities,**
Although they bear superficial
Despite bearing minor
the differences between _____ **and** _____
are _____.
clear
remarkable
striking
pronounced

Examples

Although they bear **some** superficial **similarities, the differences between Athens and Sparta are** clear.

Despite bearing **some** minor **similarities, the differences between Pele and Ronaldinho are** pronounced.

Your Thesis Sentences

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Comparison/Contrast Template 3

While some differences between _____ and _____ are _____, the similarities are _____.

evident
noticeable

striking
pronounced
salient

Examples

While some differences between Japan and the United States are evident, the similarities are salient.

While some differences between high school and college are evident, the similarities are striking.

Your Thesis Sentences

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

➔ II. PROPOSITION THESIS SENTENCES

The next eight templates are for use in responding to a **proposition**. A proposition is a statement that establishes the truth or falsity of something. This sentence not only clarifies your position—it establishes your mastery of some sophisticated syntax. These templates begin with noun clauses. A noun clause is a group of words that acts just like a noun, serving as a subject, an object of a verb, or an object of a preposition. Using a noun clause correctly will make a good impression on your reader.

Proposition:

X is Y

Proposition Example:

Democracy is the best form of government.

X

Y

Proposition Template 1 (Agreement)

This template can be used when you agree with the proposition.

The _____ that X is Y is a _____ one,

notion¹

belief

thought

idea

proposition

fascinating²

an interesting

thought-provoking

provocative

and one that I believe in.

Examples

The notion that democracy is the best form of government is a fascinating one, and one that I believe in.

The thought that world peace will be³ attained in the next decade is an interesting one, and one that I believe in.

Your Thesis Sentences

1. (*proposition*: Secrecy* is bad.)

2. (*proposition*: America is a melting pot.**)

¹*Secrecy* means keeping secrets.

²*Melting pot* is a common metaphorical description of the United States and its history, meaning that immigrants eventually melt into society so that one nationality can't be distinguished from another. This was especially popular in the early 1900s.

3. (Write your own sentence.)

Notes

1. *Of the alternatives in the first blank of the template, I prefer the word notion. It is a more abstract word than the others and sounds a bit more sophisticated.*
2. *There are thousands of adjectives that can be used in the last blank.*
3. *In the second example, will be is used instead of is. You can change tenses like this to fit your thesis.*