



Organizing and Revising Essays

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1. T/F A thesis statement is a sentence (or sentences) that expresses the main ideas of your paper and answers the question or questions posed by your paper.
2. T/F To create a thesis statement, ignore the details that you keep noticing or what stands out for you.
3. T/F You should choose three details that you find the most interesting or most important to help develop your thesis statement.
4. T/F If you are having trouble coming up with an assertion, change your topic into a question that your essay can answer.
5. T/F Almost all assignments, no matter how complicated, can be reduced to a single question.
6. T/F Prewriting strategies can help you overcome writer's block.
7. T/F Determining your audience and your purpose for writing is crucial in the prewriting process

Matching—Draw a line to indicate which of these thesis statements on the right is good and which one is bad.

A Good Thesis Statement

There are some negative and positive aspects to the Banana Herb Tea Supplement.

A Bad Thesis Statement

Because Banana Herb Tea Supplement promotes rapid weight loss that results in the loss of muscle and lean body mass, it poses a potential danger to customers.

Matching—Draw a line to match the correct strategy with its description.

Freewriting	Helps generate subtopics. Once identified, those subtopics can be at the top of another list.
Brainstorming	Write down as many words that come to mind when thinking of your topic. You can organize them of importance later on or throw out words that don't really apply to your topic.
Listing	Another visual way to organize your ideas. These usually move from the top to bottom of a page and can easily be turned into an outline, using the main ideas as headings and subheadings and adding new ideas until an outline takes shape.
Mapping and Webbing	Offers the author growth and a chance to analyze your subject that you are going to write about. Often a prompt is given and by writing about the topic of the prompt, it offers the writer a chance to become a more proficient writer through practice. Also can be used to include someone else's opinion about the topic. Such as an online discussion, like Black board, with threads for each new response.
Journal	Given a topic the writer continues to write for a set period of time, without stopping. This is similar to brainstorming, but instead of just single words, you write down whole sentences about the topic.
Flow Charts	Organizing your ideas in a map or web is a visual form of outlining. You can connect like terms and ideas, create paragraphs by connecting those ideas and looking for patterns, and coaches the writer into thinking how the first draft will be organized.