

UNIVERSITY WRITING CENTER

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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 explain about that topic
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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 _____ 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: