

TUTORING ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Tutorat par les pairs en anglais langue seconde



Tutoring Writing: An Argument Essay

Writing lesson



2022

Québec 

STEP 1: Assessment

What are you going to write about?

TIP

STEP 2: Theory

- What is a **thesis statement**?
- What are **topic sentences**?
- What are **supporting ideas**?

TIP

EXERCISE 1. Orally identify the topic and the controlling idea in each of the following **thesis statement**.

- A. Children's organized sports should not be separated along gender lines.
- B. Vaccines should be mandatory for public employees.
- C. Assisted dying should be a right for people with mental diseases such as Alzheimer's.
- D. Education will advance by leaps and bounds if we allow students to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) in their writing tasks.

TIP

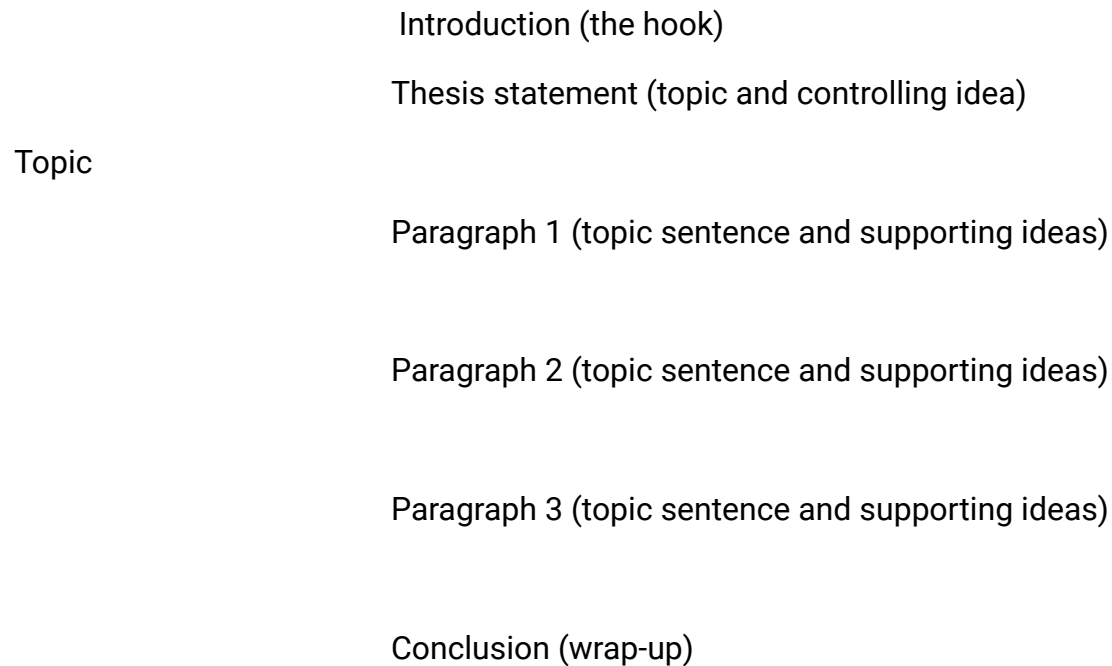
EXERCISE 2. Identify the following **thesis statements** as weak or strong. **Orally** explain why.

- A. In the following essay, I am going to write about children's organized sports.
- B. In Canada, a country of freedom, we need to discuss mandatory vaccines.
- C. Education and the use of Artificial Intelligence in writing tasks at school.
- D. In my opinion, patients with Alzheimer's should also be allowed to decide about their life.

STEP 3: Controlled and Communicative Exercises

- What is your thesis statement?
- What are your topic sentences?
- What are your supporting ideas?
- Complete the following diagram.

TIP **DIAGRAM**



STEP 4: Production task

Note: The tutee should write the text by themselves. The tutor can help revise and edit the text for grammar mistakes, coherence and organization.

Remember to guide the tutee to correct their own mistakes.

Example: “There is a mistake. Do you see it? It is here.”

Writing a technical report checklist. Check each item as you review it with your tutee.

Content	
You have a clear thesis statement (main idea)	
You provided adequate and clear support for your arguments	
You selected and integrated pertinent information from researched sources	
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You cited your sources in the proper format (MLA or APA)	
Organization	
You used transition words to connect the ideas to one another	
You used the appropriate paragraph format for the task (introduction, body paragraphs and conclusion)	
Language Use	
You checked for grammar errors	
You checked for precise words and appropriate vocabulary spelling	

STEP 5: Final Review

What new words did you learn?

Tutor Note

- Ask “how do you say” questions with the words the tutee does not mention.

Important

- Write down the words you learned today and study them.

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Theory

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Thesis statement: the main idea of the essay. It consists of two parts: the topic and a controlling idea which expresses your opinion about the topic. E.g. The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) should be banned in writing tasks at school.

Topic sentence: the main idea of each paragraph. E.g. Artificial Intelligence (AI) can replace learning critical thinking skills.

A supporting idea: examples, expert opinions, statistics, that prove your point. E.g. Artificial intelligence (AI) has evolved to the point where you can generate a complete text with just a few commands.

TIP

- A. In the following essay, I am going to write about children's organized sports.
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- C. Education and the use of Artificial Intelligence in writing tasks at school.
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STEP 2: Theory

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Theory -Exercise 1

A. Children's organized sports (topic)
should not be separated along gender lines. (controlling idea)

B. Vaccines (topic)
should be mandatory for public employees. (controlling idea)

C. Assisted dying (topic)
should be a right for people with mental diseases such as Alzheimer's. (controlling idea)

D Education will advance by leaps and bounds (controlling idea)
If we allow students to use Artificial Intelligence in their writing tasks. (topic)

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TIP

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Theory -Exercise 2

A. In the following essay, I am going to write about children's organized sports.

Weak: The thesis statement announces the topic.

Strong: Children's sports should not be organized along gender lines.

B. In Canada, we need to discuss mandatory vaccines.

Weak: it does not contain a controlling idea. Are you in favour or against?

Strong: In Canada, a country of freedom, vaccines should not be mandatory for public employees.

C. Education and the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in writing tasks at school.

Weak: it is not a complete sentence. It does not contain a verb.

Strong: Allowing students to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) in writing tasks will push education forward.

D. In my opinion, patients with Alzheimer's should also be allowed to decide about their life.

Weak: "In my opinion" weakens the point

Strong: Patients with Alzheimer's should also be allowed to decide about their life.

TIP

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