

### Thesis Statements to Analyze

1. A Response Essay (the student's purpose is to respond to the argument Thoreau makes in "Civil Disobedience"; the audience is fellow students)

1. Thoreau, in his essay "Civil Disobedience," advocates breaking laws that cause a person to behave unjustly toward another individual.

--Do you think this is a good thesis statement? Why or why not?

2. I agree with Thoreau that individuals should break laws they disagree with.

--Do you think this is a good thesis statement? Why or why not?

3. While I agree with Thoreau that slavery and the war in Mexico are governmental injustices that people should not support, I believe he is overly optimistic about the goodness of human beings and their ability to determine right and wrong for themselves. These decisions should not be made by the individual alone, but in consultation with the larger community.

--Do you think this is a good thesis statement? Why or why not?

--Which of the 3 thesis statements do you think works best?

2. A Comparative Essay (the student's purpose is to compare the thinking of several writers we've read so far this semester; the audience is fellow students)

1. Martin Luther King, Jr. advocates non-violent change while Malcolm X supports the use of violence.

--Do you think this is a good thesis statement? Why or why not?

2. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X are both thinkers concerned about racism in America in the 1960's. While they agree on many points, they disagree on many others.

--Do you think this is a good thesis statement? Why or why not?

3. Although Henry David Thoreau is well-known for advocating a "peaceable revolution," he really has more in common with Malcolm X than with Martin Luther King, Jr. Like Malcolm X, and unlike King, Thoreau believes that violence is sometimes justified if the government will not change otherwise.

--Do you think this is a good thesis statement? Why or why not?

--Which of the 3 thesis statements do you think works best?

3. An Essay About Literature (the student's purpose is to analyze a narrow topic within Alice Walker's short story, "Everyday Use"; the audience is fellow students)

1. At the end of Alice Walker's "Everyday Use," the mother snatches the quilts away from Maggie and offers them to Dee.

**--Do you think this is a good thesis statement? Why or why not?**

2. Alice Walker's "Everyday Use" is a story about respecting one's heritage, about the importance of everyday family interactions, and about the generation gap that can occur between parents and children.

**--Do you think this is a good thesis statement? Why or why not?**

3. Although Dee is an unlikable character in Alice Walker's "Everyday Use" and most readers believe she needs to be more like her mother and sister, I contend that Dee has a more realistic knowledge of prejudice than Maggie or the mother do and that she finally teaches her mother a valuable lesson about standing up for herself at the end of the story.

**--Do you think this is a good thesis statement? Why or why not?**

**--Which of the 3 thesis statements do you think works best?**