

Essay Activity: 9th-12th Grade

THEMES: Essays, Writing

CONTENT CONNECTIONS: ELA

ACTIVITY: Strong Statements

OBJECTIVE: Students will compose a thesis statement and topic sentences for their essays. Students will understand this as one step in crafting a well-organized essay.

MATERIALS:

Previously completed research for an essay

Copies of the Strong Statements activity sheet

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Prior to completing this activity, make sure students have completed the necessary research to write thesis statements and topic sentences for their essays.
2. Discuss thesis statements and topic sentences with your students.
3. Provide students with copies of the Strong Statements activity sheet.
4. Instruct students to complete the Strong Statements activity sheet on their own. As students complete the activity sheet, check in with each student about their progress and provide further guidance as needed.
5. After students have completed the Strong Statements activity sheet, discuss next steps. Are they ready to begin writing?

Name _____

Strong Statements

Instructions: Use the organizer below to draft a thesis statement and topic sentences for your essay. Fill in details you will use to support your thesis statement and topic sentences.

Thesis Statement: The thesis statement is your topic plus your main point about your topic. Combine these two elements to write a thesis statement.

Topic: _____ Main Point: _____

Thesis: _____

Topic Sentences: A topic sentence serves as a mini-thesis for each paragraph. Draft a topic sentence for each paragraph, and note details you will use to support it.

Topic Sentence: Details:

Topic Sentence: Details:

Topic Sentence: Details:
