

## Introductions - Thesis Statements

Time: 60 minutes

Level: \*\*\*\*\*[B1/B2/C1]

### Lesson Plan

*Aim: to develop the students' ability to write an academic introduction - specifically Thesis Statements. The lesson shows different writing structures for thesis statements using linking words (however, although, despite,)*

#### 1. Lead in

- Ask Students to discuss what should be included in an introduction.
- Explain that usually it should have four parts / sections
- Try to elicit the four sections

\*Students may not understand 'thesis statement' and this can be explained by suggesting it is your opinion and the key sections / topics to be discussed.

**Introduction #1:** [give out handout introduction overview] - ask students to read the introduction model and see how the four sections are structured. Highlight how the thesis links to the question, provides the key sections of the essay and provides a stance.

**Thesis Statements #2:** students read through the different structures and 'notice' the key changes in structure.

**Thesis statements Task #3:** students look at the introductions and write the thesis to each one using one of the writing structures from Thesis Statements #2. Give out model / example answers to compare or read.

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## Introduction - Thesis Statements #1

Introductions usually follow this basic structure. It is really important to tell the reader your stance (thesis statement) and structure of the essay.

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### Introduction

1	<b>General sentence</b> – introduce the general topic / background
2	<b>Specific</b> – what is the main topic / information based on this topic / definition (if applicable)
3	<b>Thesis</b> – should include the question and the key topics of your argument. It <b>must</b> include your stance / opinion (answer the question (yes or no / to what extent you agree))
4	<b>Outline</b> – what is the general structure & suggestion

Inter-changeable or combined

This is an example introduction

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- Question: Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is not an important consideration for business in 2018. To what extent do you agree.

- **Corporations and business companies need to focus on being competitive, profitable and sustainable in order to survive in the future.** Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is a significant focus for companies, which is the commitment to behave ethically and contribute to economic development while improving the quality life of the community. It has been argued that CSR is not an important consideration for 2018, which is possibly true for smaller companies. However, it is vitally important to implement CSR in larger corporations because it can improve reputation, investment and profitability. This essay will discuss both areas of the argument and conclude that CSR is important and should be a key focus for business.

First sentence

A general statement that does not include the main focus

Definition

A paraphrased definition (don't copy)

Thesis

–include question words and show your sections / key arguments of the essay (reputation, investment, profitability)

Outline

– MUST explain what the essay structure will do and the outcome / conclusion

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## Thesis statements on CSR #2

<b>Should include:</b>
<b>The question words</b>
<b>Your stance (yes or no / to what extent)</b>
<b>Key topics of your argument / counter argument</b>

**Question:** *Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is not an important consideration for business in 2018. To what extent do you agree.*

**Thesis statement (However):** It has been argued that CSR is not an important consideration for 2018, which is possibly true for smaller companies. However, it is vitally important to implement CSR in larger corporations because it can improve **reputation, investment** and **profitability**

**Thesis statement (Although):** Although it has been argued that CSR is not an important consideration for 2018, which is possibly true for smaller companies, it is vitally important to implement CSR in larger corporations because it can improve **reputation, investment** and **profitability**.

**Thesis statement (Despite):** Despite it being argued that CSR is not an important consideration for 2018, which is possibly true for smaller companies. It is vitally important to implement CSR in larger corporations because it can improve **reputation, investment** and **profitability**

**Thesis Statement (Agreement with question):** It has been argued that CSR is not an important consideration for 2018, and to a certain extent this statement is true. Companies need to focus on investment of profit to stay **competitive, innovate** and **invest in marketing strategies**.

### Thesis + outline combined

This essay will focus on three key elements of CSR in respect of reputation, investment and profitability. It will argue that these factors are vital for larger corporations and that to stay competitive these business companies need to consider CSR in 2018. It will also suggest that to a lesser degree CSR for smaller business is a secondary policy for and not as imperative compared to bigger corporations.

### Thesis Statements Task #3:

Write the thesis statement (include the question and the main topic in the essay)

**Practice 1: A university education is not worth the cost. To what extent do you agree.**

University education in the U.K has become incredibly [redacted] with on average one in every three college students going on to study at university. With tuition fees [redacted] and [redacted] becoming higher, most students are graduating with over [redacted] of debt. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Practice 2: Mobile phones are a health risk. To what extent do you agree.**

Mobile phone usage has increased 67% in the last 5 years, with [redacted] owning a smart phone (Chaffey, 2016). Obviously, mobile phones are [redacted] much more convenient with an instant [redacted], family and the Internet.

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**Practice 3: Climate Change is a result of human activities. To what extent do you agree**

Temperatures on earth have increased [redacted] the early 20th century. Over this time period, atmospheric levels [redacted] such as [redacted] and methane (CH4) have notably increased, which is often [redacted].

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## Example answers:

### A university education is not worth the cost. To what extent do you agree.

University education in the U.K has become incredibly [redacted] with on average one in every three college students going on to study at university. With tuition fees [redacted] and [redacted] becoming higher, most students are graduating with over [redacted] of debt. **Although**, it seems that such [redacted] important to gain a good career, recent research suggests the opposite. There is significant evidence that [redacted] are **unemployed**, employed in [redacted] and over 50% **cannot afford to** [redacted] Overall, this highlights that university has become too [redacted] and [redacted] the investment. This essay will analyse both sides of the argument through contemporary research and suggest that [redacted] s are more beneficial.

### Practice 2: Mobile phones are a health risk. To what extent do you agree.

### Practice 3: Climate Change is a result of human activities. To what extent do you agree

**NOT ALL ANSWERS SHOWN.**