

Sample Thesis Statements and Topic Sentences

Directions: Examine Sample 1, Sample 2, or Sample 3 below, and discuss with your partner/group the following questions:

1. How long is the thesis statement?
2. Does the thesis meet the criteria for a strong thesis statement?
 - Clear: A thesis statement should fully answer the prompt.
 - Debatable: A thesis statement should include a debatable claim.
 - Supportable: A thesis statement should be supportable with evidence.
3. What is the connection between the thesis statement and the topic sentences?

Sample 1	
Thesis Statement	Steinbeck suggests through his work that although believing in dreams may not be realistic, it still positively affects people due to the fact that it gives George and Lennie motivation, a sense of belonging with others, and a purpose to work.
Topic Sentence Body Paragraph 1	Numerous times throughout the novella, Steinbeck shows that the dream of the ranch positively affects people, such as through George and Lennie's motivation.
Topic Sentence Body Paragraph 2	Additionally, the author shows that dreams impact others positively, such as giving George and Lennie a sense of belonging with the other ranch workers.
Topic Sentence Body Paragraph 3	Lastly, dreams are positive for people because they provide purpose, such as George and Lennie's purpose for working on the ranch.

Sample 2	
Thesis Statement	Ultimately, John Steinbeck's novella suggests that dreams give people false hope through George's unrealistic promises, Lennie's obsessive belief in the farm, and Candy's desperate investment.
Topic Sentence Body Paragraph 1	Firstly, false hope in dreams can be seen in the novella through George's unrealistic promise that someday George and Lennie will own their own ranch.
Topic Sentence Body Paragraph 2	False hope is also portrayed through Lennie's obsessive belief that the dream of the ranch will come true.
Topic Sentence Body Paragraph 3	Finally, Steinbeck suggests in the novella that dreams give people false hope through Candy's desperate investment.

Sample 3	
Thesis Statement	Through the novella, Steinbeck reveals that dreams are dangerous if one lives only for the future, while ignoring the present, as revealed through Lennie's obsession with the dream, the pressure George feels to fulfill the dream, and Crooks's brief belief that he could join the farm.
Topic Sentence Body Paragraph 1	Dreams are dangerous because people focus on the future, rather than the present, as revealed through Lennie's obsession with the future farm.
Topic Sentence Body Paragraph 2	Secondly, dreams dangerously make one focus on the future, and not the present, as revealed through the pressure George feels to fulfill the dream.
Topic Sentence Body Paragraph 3	Thirdly, the novella reveals that dreams are dangerous because a person focuses too much on the future and not on one's reality, as seen through Crooks's brief belief that he could join the farm.