

“Guided Practice for Restating the Question in the Form of a Thesis” Practice Exercises

The purpose of this exercise is to give you practice writing a thesis based on the requirements of the question. There will be two types of exercises to help accomplish this goal: guided and unguided “timed” practice.

In the guided practice exercises, you will see a writing prompt and a box with the following headings: main idea, support idea, and sub-support ideas. After you begin with a general statement that sets the context for your thesis, your goal is to take the “main idea” and combine it with the “support statement” headings. In this way, you will be writing a thesis statement which effectively forecasts a specific plan of your essay. You will need to make sure that you use appropriate sentence structure during this exercise. For example, if you saw the following prompt and its accompanying shopping list boxes,

Many students have to live with roommates while going to school or university. What are some of the important qualities of a good roommate? Use specific reasons and examples to explain why these qualities are important.

you would begin with a general statement; then you would combine the main idea with the three support ideas in the box. It would be something like this:

General statement about the question + main idea + three support points

Upon attending college, many students will have to live with a roommate. Which roommate one chooses can make for a positive or negative college experience. In choosing a roommate, one should consider several important qualities: honesty, cleanliness, and a clean slate.

This writer has written an effective thesis:

- ↪ First, the thesis is not factual. Instead, it is a generalization about the topic. It demands that the writer provide proof about why honesty, cleanliness, and a clean slate are important qualities of a good roommate.
- ↪ Second, restating the question, it is sharply focused around the writing assignment and will be very easy around which to organize an essay.
- ↪ Third, it prepares readers for specific facts and details that will later be discussed in the essay.
- ↪ It has good sentence structure and grammar.

After you have written a thesis based on the outline in the space provided, click on “Sample Thesis.”