

PICKENS COUNTY SCHOOLS

Standards-Based Assignment Packet

Subject/Grade: ELA 12

Name: _____

Writing Introductions: Thesis Sentence

A thesis sentence is the main topic sentence of an essay or other written piece. It states the main opinion and often forecasts the principle sections of the piece. It is usually placed at the end of the introduction.

Example:

Topic: Should students be allowed to eat during class?

Possible thesis sentence: Students should not eat during class as students would not be paying attention while they eat, they may leave trash in the classroom, and other students might be distracted while their neighbor eats.

Write a thesis sentence for each topic below.

1. Discuss who was the greater president of the United States: George Washington or Abraham Lincoln.
2. What was the greatest challenge in your life?
3. What are the most important character traits for a good brother?
4. Explain your favorite character in literature.
5. Should motorcycles be outlawed on public streets?

Charles Dickens: David Copperfield and His Aunt

Name: _____

Charles Dickens' *David Copperfield*, published in 1849, is one of his most famous works. Dickens tells the life of David from the time he is born until he is an adult. David was born after his father died, and while his mother was very loving, she was also dependent and innocent. His mother married again to Mr. Murdstone when David was seven. Mr. Murdstone was very cruel to David and beat him. David is sent to boarding school and while there, his mother dies. After Mr. Murdstone removes him from school and sends him to work, David runs away to his great-aunt's home.

In the scene below, Mr. Murdstone and his sister have arrived to take David back. David's great-aunt, who is referred to as his aunt, confronts Murdstone about his cruel behavior and refuses to hand David over to his stepfather. His aunt begins the passage, speaking to Murdstone about David's mother.



Charles Dickens

Chapter 14. My Aunt Makes Up Her Mind About Me

"It was clear enough, as I have told you, years before YOU ever saw her—and why, in the mysterious dispensations of Providence, you ever did see her, is more than humanity can comprehend—it was clear enough that the poor soft little thing would marry somebody, at some time or other; but I did hope it wouldn't have been as bad as it has turned out. That was the time, Mr. Murdstone, when she gave birth to her boy here," said my aunt; "to the poor child you sometimes tormented her through afterwards, which is a disagreeable remembrance and makes the sight of him odious now. Aye, aye! you needn't wince!" said my aunt. "I know it's true without that."

He had stood by the door, all this while, observant of her with a smile upon his face, though his black eyebrows were heavily contracted. I remarked now, that, though the smile was on his face still, his colour had gone in a moment, and he seemed to breathe as if he had been running.

"Good day, sir," said my aunt, "and good-bye! Good day to you, too, ma'am," said my aunt, turning suddenly upon his sister. "Let me see you ride a donkey over my green again, and as sure as you have a head upon your shoulders, I'll knock your bonnet off, and tread upon it!"

It would require a painter, and no common painter too, to depict my aunt's face as she delivered herself of this very unexpected sentiment, and Miss Murdstone's face as she heard it. But the manner of the speech, no less than the matter, was so fiery, that Miss Murdstone, without a word in answer, discreetly put her arm through her brother's, and walked haughtily out of the cottage; my aunt remaining in the window looking after them; prepared, I have no doubt, in case of the donkey's reappearance, to carry her threat into instant execution.

1. What is the "disagreeable remembrance" the aunt refers to?
2. What was one of Mr. Murdstone reactions to the aunt's speech?
3. What does David's aunt threaten to do if Miss Murdstone rides a donkey across her lawn again?
4. The author says David's aunt was prepared "to carry her threat into instant execution." What does execution mean in this quotation?

ENGLISH 12

Correct the Text:

In January 1929, Dorothy Eustis established The Seeing Eye, the first American training school for dogs' and there blind owner's. An experienced breeder, Eustis had already trained german shepherds to serve army and police units across Europe. Soon Dorothy started a school in Germany that trained dogs to assist blind veterans she new they could be used to aid others too. The schools first canine helper was appropriately name buddy!

EXHIBIT 4.1. Four Words Sheet

*Choose 4 words
to define*

Name _____ Period _____ Date _____

Word and Definition in English

Definition in Primary Language

Picture

Sentence

Word and Definition in English

Definition in Primary Language

Picture

Sentence

Word and Definition in English

Definition in Primary Language

Picture

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Sentence

Explaining Oxymorons

Identify and explain each oxymoron in the sentences below.

- 1) My younger brother took the larger half of the blueberry muffin.

- 2) The teacher asked the class to keep the noise down to a dull roar.

- 3) When Elizabeth mentioned her election idea to the committee, it went over like a lead balloon.

- 4) It was a minor miracle that no one was hurt when the car ran off the country road.

- 5) James became a one-man band to raise money for the school project.

- 6) He is always able to give an unbiased opinion when he is asked politely.

- 7) The toy company faced a friendly takeover by the bicycle manufacturer.

- 8) She asked in a loud whisper if anyone wanted to leave the movie with her.

Correcting Dangling Modifiers

Sometimes in a sentence it is difficult to tell what a modifying word or phrase is describing. That modifying word or phrase is called a **dangling modifier**.

Example: Working hard all afternoon in the kitchen, the cake I baked tasted terrible.

Working hard all afternoon in the kitchen is a modifying phrase. It is difficult, however, to understand who or what worked hard: *the cake* or *I*. Obviously the cake can't work hard, so the phrase must be modifying *I*. This confusion is the basis of a dangling modifier.

Correcting a dangling modifier often requires more than just moving words around. Usually the correction requires adding a word or phrase or rewording the sentence.

I worked hard all afternoon in the kitchen, and the cake I baked tasted terrible.

OR

Even after working hard all afternoon in the kitchen, I baked a terrible tasting cake.

Rewrite each of the following sentences correcting the dangling modifier.

1. After centuries of lying on the ocean floor, the treasure hunters found the Spanish galleon.

2. Watching carefully for hours, the flock of butterflies never arrived.

3. Thirsty, the glass of water was swallowed in one gulp.

4. Driving down the street, the park came into view.

5. Resolving to study more, the textbooks seemed more interesting.

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Poetry and Poets: Robert Frost:

Name: _____

Robert Frost (1874-1963) is one of the most celebrated American poets. He received the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry four times and received the Congressional Gold Medal in 1960. Frost wrote vibrant poetry about nature and the rural life. Below is one of his poems from a collection published in 1916. Read it carefully and answer the questions below.

The Line-Gang

by Robert Frost

Rhyme Scheme

Here come the line-gang pioneering by.
They throw a forest down less cut than broken.
They plant dead trees for living, and the dead
They string together with a living thread.
They string an instrument against the sky
Wherein words whether beaten out or spoken
Will run as hushed as when they were a thought.
But in no hush they string it: they go past
With shouts afar to pull the cable taut,
To hold it hard until they make it fast,
To ease away—they have it. With a laugh,
An oath of towns that set the wild at naught
They bring the telephone and telegraph.

Questions:

1. What is the rhyme scheme in this poem?
2. What does “beaten out” and “spoken” refer to in the phrase “words whether beaten out or spoken”?
3. Explain what the phrase “They plant dead trees for living” means.
4. What is the meaning of the word “fast” in the poem?
5. How many syllables are in the first line? In the last?