

## Lesson Plan for Collaborative Writing Workshop

### Key Points about thesis statements:

1. Addresses a topic
2. Provides a statement about the topic (claim)
3. Provides a logical structure for the paper (blueprint of organization)
4. Illustrates a level of critical thought regarding the topic

### Context:

Given that this lesson is supposed to occur within a single class period within an entire course, it is first important to contextualize the assignment. This exercise will focus on the construction of a thesis sentence in an ENGL 150 class. The students have been assigned common readings; two or three argumentative essays with strong thesis statements. Using the readings as models, the class will arrive at a “definition” or idea of what a good thesis statement should accomplish. Hopefully this definition will coalesce with the instructor’s definition. If it does not, be certain to lead them in this direction. At the very least, the students will have models of what the instructor’s expectations are. The students are then instructed to write a completed 2-3pg draft of an argumentative topic based on class content.

### Lesson Plan for class at hand:

#### First 10 minutes of class:

Divide students into groups of 2 or 3 students (preferably two). Have them exchange papers, and critique the thesis statement in accordance with the following questions (ideally these will be the same concepts the class arrived at in the general discussion of thesis statements), either written on the board or on the overhead:

1. What do you like about the thesis statement or idea/topic of the essay?
2. Does the thesis sentence present a topic and statement about the topic?
3. Does the thesis provide a structure for the paper?
4. Does the thesis sentence demonstrate a depth of critical thought?
5. What are your suggestions for improvement? BE SPECIFIC

#### Concluding 10 minutes-Assign Homework:

Ask the students to revise the essay, using the suggestions of their peers. Also ask them to keep an anonymous list, of what tips they found most useful. Both assignments are to be completed by the next class period, in which we will start to apply a similar process to the concept of organization. Field any questions.

