

Thesis statement exercises

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| Name | |
| Date | Section |

Exercise 15-a Choosing effective thesis statements

An effective thesis statement is debatable, is usually an answer to a question or a solution to a problem, and uses specific language. From each of the following pairs, choose the better thesis statement for a first-year college essay. Explain your reasoning for each choice.

1.
 - a. According to novelist John Steinbeck, why is it so important to have dreams and aspirations?
 - b. John Steinbeck's novel *Of Mice and Men* teaches us, perhaps better than any other novel, how our dreams and aspirations sustain us in hard times.

2.
 - a. An unused three-acre parcel of land behind the local high school has been evaluated for possible uses, including co-operative farming.
 - b. It makes both economic and environmental sense to convert the unused three-acre parcel behind the local high school to a farm co-op.

3. a. In the wake of claims of racism by black and Latino artists, the music industry must act responsibly to reevaluate its guidelines for explicit content.
- b. The music industry's racist practices require explicit content advisory labels on music by black and Latino artists almost three times as often as on music by white artists.

4. a. The electoral college protects voters in rural and small states, and for this reason, the system must remain in place; moving to a popular vote system would create a sharp and undemocratic imbalance.
- b. The electoral college was designed for a number of practical reasons; one was to protect the interests of voters in rural states and small states.

5. a. Though it may seem drastic, classifying domestic violence as a hate crime, one that comes with far more serious penalties for perpetrators, is a useful step we should take to decrease domestic violence incidents.
- b. Decreasing the number of domestic violence incidents nationwide is an important goal, and new ideas about how to achieve it are critical.
