

THESIS WORKSHEET – *MATCHING POINT SAMPLE*

This worksheet will help you to develop your Ninth Grade Speech thesis. It will also help you to determine which of the two organizations—the Specific Point, or the Matching Point—you will use for the body of the speech.

An effective thesis for your Ninth Grade Speech will include two elements: 1) a call for change or action, and 2) a statement that expresses in general terms the main points of your argument.

Please fill in the following blanks as thoroughly as possible. Note that this worksheet will determine your thesis, which will then control the rest of your speech. Therefore, take special care!

1) What is your issue?

The use of SATs in college admissions

2) What is the change or action you will be proposing? Note: Since the persuasive thesis offers a proposed course of action, it will generally include words such as “must,” “should,” or “need.”

College admissions people should get rid of the SAT as a tool in making decisions

3) Fill in the following chart:

| <u>Opposition arguments</u> <i>List at least three of the main arguments the opposition to your proposal would have</i> | <u>Your arguments</u> <i>List all (minimum of three) of the main arguments you will use to defend your proposal</i> |
|--|--|
| 1) the SAT is fair/not biased | 1) the SAT is racially biased |
| 2) it accurately measures a student's ability to succeed in college | 2) it is too narrow in scope - it only tests math aptitude and vocabulary skills |
| 3) it reflects the breadth of a good high school education | 3) the creators of the SAT are more interested in making money than writing a good test |
| 4) there are no better tools out there to differentiate between students | 4) it is inaccurate - plenty of brilliant students do poorly on it |

Because there are three points that match, you should use the Matching Point structure, not the Specific Point structure.

4) Examine your opposition points and your supporting points. Draw an arrow between any one of your supporting arguments that matches an opposition argument (i.e., opposition says a new law will *cost* taxpayers money, however, you are arguing that it will *save* taxpayers money). If you have three arrows, then proceed to the “Matching Point” section. If have fewer than three, then proceed to the “Specific Point” section.

MATCHING POINT SECTION

Write a general statement that encompasses all opposing arguments. This will eventually be the "edge" to your thesis. (For example, "Most college admissions officers argue that the SAT is fair,

College admissions officers argue that the SAT is fair, accurate, and that it reflects the breadth of a high school education.

Write your solution to the issue. What do you propose? What action should be taken?

College admissions officers should stop using the SAT as a factor in college admissions.

Write a general statement that encompasses all arguments supporting your position.

The SAT is racially biased, it measures a student's abilities inaccurately, and it is far too narrow in scope.

Thesis Statement: Combine all three above elements of the thesis into one or two clear sentences.

Despite college admissions officers' claims that the SAT is fair, accurate, and that it reflects the breadth of a high school education, they should stop using it as a factor in college admissions because it is racially biased, it measures a student's academic abilities inaccurately, and it is far too narrow in scope.

Tips:

- Be as specific as possible when stating who/what the opposition is.
- Consider making the "edge" (the opposition part) of your thesis into a dependent clause (using an opening word like "Despite," "Although," "Though," or "In spite of," then turning the action you are calling for into the main clause of the thesis statement.
- The three points should be listed in the same order as their matching point.

SPECIFIC POINT SECTION

Write your solution to the issue. What do you propose? What action should be taken?

BECAUSE THE THREE ARROWS ON THE FIRST PAGE INDICATE A MATCHING POINT SPEECH, DO NOT COMPLETE THIS SECTION

Write

Thesis Statement: Combine both the elements of the thesis above into one clear sentence.

Please note that your thesis will follow the part of your introduction that addresses the opposition points you listed on the first page of this worksheet. Your thesis, then, will likely begin with a word that will signal that you are refuting the opposition, like “However,” or “Despite these claims.”