

THESIS WORKSHEET – *SPECIFIC 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?

Nuclear power as a source of energy

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.”

America should close all of its nuclear power plants as soon as it can replace them

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>
<p>1) chances of a meltdown are minimal</p> <p>2) nuclear power is cheap</p> <p>3) nuclear power plants are secure</p>	<p>1) nuclear power plants are dangerous</p> <p>2) storage of nuclear waste is an environmental problem</p> <p>3) more efficient alternatives are available</p>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <p>Because only two of these points match, you should use the <i>Specific Point</i> structure, not the <i>Matching Point</i> structure.</p> </div>	

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,

Write

**BECAUSE THE ARROWS ON THE FIRST PAGE
DO NOT MATCH, DO NOT COMPLETE THIS
SECTION**

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

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

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.

SPECIFIC POINT SECTION

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

America should close all of its nuclear power plants as soon as it can replace them

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

Nuclear power plants are dangerous, storage of nuclear waste is an environmental disaster waiting to happen, and nuclear power is not the most efficient way to generate energy.

Thesis Statement: Combine both the boxes above into one clear sentence, which will be your thesis. Because your thesis will follow the introduction section that presents the opposing arguments, this thesis will begin with a word that will signal that you are refuting the opposition, like “However,” or “Despite these claims.”

Despite these arguments, America should close all of its nuclear power plants as soon as it can replace them because nuclear power plants are dangerous, the storage of nuclear waste is an environmental disaster waiting to happen, and there are many more efficient ways to generate energy than nuclear power.

Please see “Speech Outlines - Specific Point” on the speech web page for detailed information about organizing this speech.