Exercise walk-through

4.4
Writing a thesis statement

AP English Language and Composition

Writing a Thesis Statement

For your own thesis, three tests:

Defensible

required

a reasonable reader could disagree; this alone wins the thesis point

May preview

optional

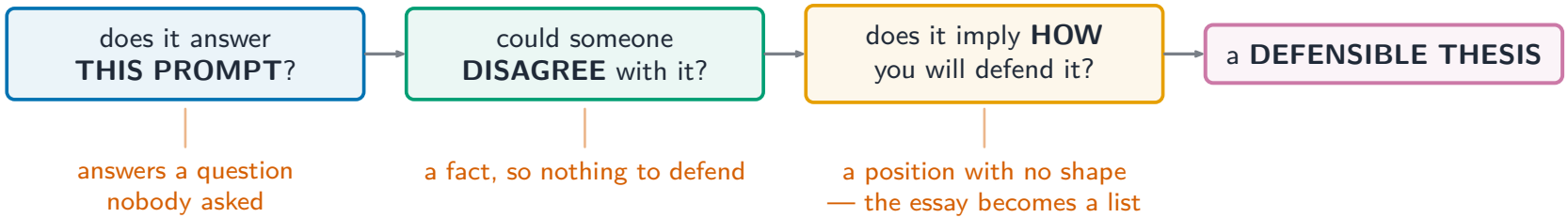
show the shape only when it is **load-bearing**, never as a formula

Specific

constrains what follows

if any paragraph could fit under it, it is too broad

Three gates, in this order



Run them in **this** order. A sentence can be beautifully arguable and still be answering a prompt you were not set

Exercises 2.1·2.2

2.1 State what makes a thesis appropriately scoped. [2]

2.2 State what to do when the drafted essay outruns the thesis. [2]

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2.1 State what makes a thesis appropriately scoped. [2]

2.1

- it is narrow enough to be defended in the space available and still disputable

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2.2 State what to do when the drafted essay outruns the thesis. [2]

2.2

- revise the thesis to match the argument actually made, rather than leaving the mismatch

Exercise 2.3 (a)

2.3 Thesis: “School uniforms are harmful.” The essay argues only about cost.

(a) Name the problem. [1]

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(a) Name the problem. [1]

(a)

- the thesis promises more than the essay delivers

Exercise 2.3 (b)

2.3 Thesis: “School uniforms are harmful.” The essay argues only about cost.

(b) State two possible fixes. [2]

Exercise 2.3 (b)

2.3 Thesis: “School uniforms are harmful.” The essay argues only about cost.

(b) State two possible fixes. [2]

(b)

- narrow the thesis to cost; or add the arguments the thesis promised

Exercises 3.1·3.2

3.1 A thesis that promises three arguments in an essay that makes one is [1]

- **A** appropriately broad
- **B** a broken promise the reader notices
- **C** well scoped
- **D** a concession

3.2 The cheapest repair when an essay has moved beyond its thesis is to [1]

- **A** delete the essay
- **B** revise the thesis
- **C** add a conclusion
- **D** change the title

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3.1 A thesis that promises three arguments in an essay that makes one is [1]

- **A** appropriately broad
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3.1 B

- the reader is told to expect three and given one

3.2 The cheapest repair when an essay has moved beyond its thesis is to [1]

- **A** delete the essay
- **B** revise the thesis
- **C** add a conclusion
- **D** change the title

3.2 B

- changing one sentence is cheaper than rewriting the argument

Exercise 3.3 (a)

3.3 Prompt: “Is it right to require volunteering for graduation?”

(a) Write a thesis you could defend in five paragraphs. [2]

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(a)

- a specific, defensible thesis

Exercise 3.3 (b)

3.3 Prompt: “Is it right to require volunteering for graduation?”

(b) List the paragraph claims that would serve it. [2]

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(b)

- two or three paragraph claims, each of which serves it