

Thesis Statements and Key Terms I

Purpose: Upon completion of this activity, students will understand the importance of a thesis statement, topic sentences, and transition devices in essay writing. **This DLA should take approximately 1 to 1 ½ hours to complete.**

1. View the attached PowerPoint presentation entitled “Thesis Statements, Topic Sentences, Transition Sentences, and Body Paragraphs: The Ultimate Guide.” While reading, please answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper:
 - 1) What is a thesis statement? What does a good thesis statement do?
 - 2) About how many supporting topics should your paper have?
 - 3) The supporting reasons in your thesis will do what?
 - 4) How should each topic sentence be connected to the thesis?
 - 5) What are the four methods for providing transitions between ideas?
 - 6) Even though writers are often told not to repeat themselves, why is repetition of key words and phrases needed in essays?
 - 7) What is parallelism?
2. What questions do you still have about thesis statements, topic sentences, and use of key words and other transitions? Write your questions below.
3. **Apply to your own writing:** Look at a paper you are currently writing. Locate and evaluate your thesis statement and topic sentences. Circle transitions and note whether you have enough and a variety of appropriate transitions. Check, too, for parallelism. Write any questions you might have about your own paper on the back of this sheet.
4. Finally, visit a tutor or instructor to review your answers to the questions above, to go over your paper and the questions you wrote on the back of this sheet, and to ask any questions you still have.

Attach a confirmation sheet or get a signature below:

Instructor Signature: _____ Date: _____