**“Shooting an Elephant” Argumentative Paragraph**

A thesis statement is your claim or argument about a specific topic. The reason you write an argumentative essay is to prove your thesis statement.

***THESIS = explains the topic of your essay, what you believe about that topic, and why you believe it.***

***Remember!! Don’t use first person in your thesis.***

3 Parts:

1. Identification: What is the topic you are talking about?
2. Claim: What do you believe about the topic?
3. Direction: How can you support your belief? How can you prove your

opinion?

EXAMPLE:

**Writing Prompt: Do sports have a positive influence on kids?**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ID: What is the topic?** | **Claim: What do you believe?** | **Direction: Support/Reasons** |
| The influence of sports on kids | It is positive | -Teach social skills-Time management-Exercise |
| **THESIS:**Sports have a positive influence on kids of all ages because they provide exercise, teach social skills, and teach time management.  |

*Directions:* You will write a complete argumentative sentence using the 3 parts listed above. Use the table below to plan your thesis statement.

**Writing Prompt: Do you agree or disagree with Orwell’s argument about imperialism?**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ID: What is the topic?** | **Claim: What do you believe?** | **Direction: Support/Reasons** |
|  |  |  |
| **THESIS:** |

**Evidence & Explanation**

When writing an argumentative essay, you must provide evidence to help prove your thesis. The evidence you provide may come directly from the text, outside research, or personal experience depending on the purpose of your essay.

Examples cannot prove themselves. In order to strengthen your argument, you must interpret the quote or other piece of evidence to ensure that you are proving your point. Again, do not use first person.

***When interpreting a piece of evidence, always ask yourself, “SO WHAT?!” How does this evidence help prove my thesis statement?***

*Directions:* Using the thesis statement you wrote on the previous page, provide two pieces of evidence along with an explanation for each quote. Avoid using first person in your explanation.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Evidence: Include page number** | **Explanation: Your interpretation** |
|  |  |
|  |  |