**Thesis Statement**

**What is a Thesis Statement?**

* ***A thesis statement is a sentence that summarizes your opinion on a topic. It must have a subject and an opinion.***
  + ***i.e.- Corporal punishment is wrong.***

**SUBJECT OPINION**

**Why? What’s the point?**

* ***When you write an essay, you must focus your ideas, otherwise your essay sounds scatterbrained, and no one will be able to follow it.***
* ***If you write a thesis statement first, and focus all of your ideas around that thesis statement, you can guarantee your essay is focused.***

**How do I do it?**

* ***Choose a subtopic that relates to Justice in America (our theme).***
  + ***Race/Ethnicity***
  + ***Gender***
  + ***Age***
  + ***Socioeconomic Status***
  + ***Geographic Location***
* **Write a sentence that summarizes your opinion.**
  + ***African Americans have been treated unfairly in America.***

**SUBJECT OPINION**

* + ***Women in America have had to fight for their rights.***

**SUBJECT OPINION**

**Annotated Bibliography**

**What is an Annotated Bibliography?**

* *An annotated bibliography is a list of citations (your resources) followed by a brief summary (100-150 words). Researching and writing the annotated bibliography is the first step of the research process.*

Why? What’s the point?

* *One of the reasons behind providing an annotated bibliography is to* ***prove*** *that you have done some* ***valid research*** *and to show that you have become an* ***expert*** *on your topic.*
* *Furthermore, readers refer to the bibliography if they want to read more about the topic. Think of your paper as a conversation with your reader on the topic; the annotated bibliography allows you to tell readers what to check out next. You want to give your audience enough information to understand basically what the resource is about.*

How do I do it?

* *Create MLA citations, then type annotations at www.easybib.com*
* *The entire Annotated Bibliography is due* ***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***
* *You need 4 sources*

**Thesis**

Standardized tests for students are unfair and unnecessary.

**Annotated Bibliography**

(Sample)

Herman, Joan L. and Jamal Abedi.  "Assessing the Effects of Standardized Testing on

Use a hanging indent.

Schools." *Educational and Psychological Measurement.*  (2004):  471-482. Print. This article **gives** statistical data collected from upper elementary teachers in 48 different schools.  450 questionnaires were sent to the teachers to get information on what they thought of standardized testing.  Questions included: how much pressure is felt from the principal or school district, how much time is spent reviewing for standardized tests, and to what extent changes in test scores are due to a change in instruction.  The surveys were given out to all types of schools, poor and wealthy, and approximately 341 were received back.

1 in.

Notice the use of present tense verbs.

Lyman, Howard B.  *Test Scores and What They Mean*.  Boston:  Allyn and Bacon, 2004.

Print. This book **presents** a detailed view on both sides of the argument for standardized testing, but also how to prepare for them.  A large part of the book is used to discuss ethical issues in testing.  Is it right or wrong?  The author leaves that decision up to the reader.  Some sections include validity, reliability, and usability of the standardized test.  Also included are sample test questions for the readers to look at to help them decide whether a sophomore in high school should know the information.

Morse, Jodie, et al.  "Is That Your Final Answer?". *Time*. 19 June 2002:  28-32. Print.

This article **discusses** the uproar that teachers, students, and even some principals are in because the standardized testing is beginning to be mandated for graduation from high school and for children to move on to the next grade.  Students are signing petitions and marching on city halls around the United States.  Students and teachers are protesting by walking out of tests and helping students with answers.  Because of the high-stakes associated with standardized tests cheating is now occurring and problems are arising everyday.

Times New

Roman

Neill, Monty.  "High-Stakes Testing Flunks."  *FairTest.*  N.p., 3 May 2002. Web. 6 December 2004 <http://www.fairtest.org/k12/High-Stakes%20oped.html>. This article **describes** how the high-stakes tests are doomed to fail, just as they have failed in some states that already administer them.  Many people learn different ways, and one standard test is not the way to see what students are learning.  There are too many factors in education to make a black and white, pass or fail test.  It is even more important to see that teachers are now just drilling students for the exams instead of giving them information needed in the "real world."

Double-spaced

The annotation begins right after the citation.