

EXERCISE 2-1 Thesis statements

In each of the following pairs, which sentence might work well as a thesis for a two-to-five-page college paper? What is the problem with the other one? Is it too factual? Too broad? Too vague?

- 1a. By networking with friends, a single parent can manage to strike a balance among work, school, a social life, and family.
- b. Single parents face many challenges as they try to juggle all of their responsibilities.
- 2a. At the Special Olympics, disabled athletes are taught that with hard work and support from others they can accomplish anything; that they can indeed be winners.
- b. Working with the Special Olympics program is rewarding.
- 3a. History 201, taught by Professor Brown, is offered at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- b. Whoever said that history is nothing but polishing tombstones must have missed History 201, because in Professor Brown's class history is very much alive.
- 4a. So far, research suggests that zero-emissions vehicles are not a sensible solution to the problem of steadily increasing air pollution.
- b. Because air pollution is of serious concern to many people in the world today, several government agencies in the United States have implemented plans to begin solving the problem.
- 5a. Anorexia nervosa is a dangerous, sometimes deadly eating disorder found mainly in young, upper-middle-class teenagers.
- b. The eating disorder anorexia nervosa is rarely cured by one treatment alone; only by combining drug therapy with psychotherapy and family therapy can the patient begin the long, torturous journey to wellness.