

**Due:** By Monday, 12:00 Midnight

### **Introduction**

In Week 3, you began a paragraph concerning the broad topic of "childhood," which you narrowed down into a much more specific topic. Last week, you revised that paragraph, and this week, you will write your final draft. You may want to refer to your textbooks for more information regarding final drafts. Your final draft should be as perfect as you can get it, incorporating your instructor's feedback and all the rules and strategies you know about the writing process. For this draft, you will want to make sure every element is in place, and you will want to be sure that there are no errors. This assignment will help you practice for the final draft of your research project.

### **Tasks**

- Read your instructor's feedback and think about how to incorporate it in your work. If you do not feel that you should incorporate this feedback, at least look at it from this angle: Your instructor (and anyone else who reads your work) made those comments for a reason. Why? What did they see in your work that you may have missed or ignored? Remember, you are writing for your audience.
- Re-read your paragraph to refresh your memory.
- Make any adjustments you feel will improve your work.
- Take a step back. Put the paragraph down for a couple of hours and go do something else. Come back to your work with fresh eyes. Make final adjustments and then proofread. You will want to proofread last in case you made any errors in your adjustments.

**Deliverables and format:** Submit your "Childhood Final Draft" of your paragraph in a Word document.

**Font:** Arial; 10

**Line Spacing:** Double

**File Name:** *last-name-first-initial\_Childhood-FinalDraft.doc*

**Due:** By Monday, 12:00 Midnight

**Before submitting your assignment, check it first!**

### **CHECK IT FIRST**

Before submitting your paragraph, check it for the following criteria:

- Does the topic sentence communicate your main point and clarify the parameters?
- Do the supporting details explain fully what you want to say?
- Are specific words used to help explain the topic fully?
- Do the word choices clarify the meaning and does the tone suit the audience?
- Is the organizational strategy logical and does it fit your purpose?
- Do all the sentences support the topic sentence?
- Do the sentences flow smoothly with transitions between them?
- Have you made adjustments and fine-tuned your work?
- Have you proofread for any spelling or grammar errors?

**Due:** By Monday, 12:00 Midnight**Introduction**

This week’s lesson presentation focused on the functions and the elements of a thesis statement and how to present evidence to support that statement. *The Longman Writer* refers to the thesis statement as the “hub – the central point around which all the other material revolves,” (40). The thesis statement also states your position on the topic or in some cases the purpose of the document. This week you will write a thesis statement and select supporting evidence. For this assignment you may use the topic you researched last week. *If you wish, you may choose another topic but you will need to research the evidence.* If you do research a new topic, you may want to use the Search Form you filled out last week to help you.

**Tasks** This exercise has three parts.

1. Briefly research the topic. If you are using the same topic you used last week, then you already have a good start on this, but you may want to research a bit more.
2. Write a thesis statement. Remember, the thesis statement must limit your topic and incorporate your point of view. Further, the thesis statement should be a statement rather than a question. Finally, make sure your thesis is arguable and not just a statement of fact.
3. Write three-to-five paragraphs presenting the evidence you found to support your thesis—for example, facts, examples, statistics, etc. Refer to pages 48–54 in *The Longman Writer*.

**Deliverables and format:** Submit three-to-five paragraphs in a Word document titled “Thesis Draft”**Font:** Arial; 10**Line Spacing:** Double**File Name:** *last-name-first-initial\_ThesisDraft.doc***Due:** By Monday, 12:00 Midnight**Before submitting your assignment, check it first!****CHECK IT FIRST**

Before submitting your paragraphs, check them first by these criteria:

- Does the thesis statement limit your topic?
- Does the thesis statement incorporate your opinion or point of view?
- Does the thesis statement communicate your main point accurately?
- Is your evidence:
 

Relevant and Unified?	Dramatic?
Specific?	Representative?
Adequate?	Documented?
Accurate?	
- Check your paragraphs:
  - Do the supporting details explain fully what you want to say?
  - Are specific words used to help explain the topic fully?
  - Do the word choices clarify the meaning?
  - Does the tone fit the audience?
  - Is the organizational strategy logical and does it fit your purpose?
  - Do the paragraphs support your thesis statement?
  - Do the sentences flow smoothly with transitions between one and the next?
  - Do your paragraphs contain any spelling or grammatical errors?
  - Are your sentences complete?

**Due:** By Monday, 12:00 Midnight

### **Introduction**

The small group discussion will allow you to receive feedback from your classmates on your thesis statement. This feedback can serve as valuable input for future assignments.

### **Tasks**

Write your thesis statement. Respond to two of your classmates in your group by answering the following questions and stating your reasons for your answer.

1. Did the thesis statement limit the topic? If not, how could your classmate narrow it down?
2. Did the thesis statement incorporate the writer's opinion? Can you think of an opposing viewpoint that would prove the thesis statement to be arguable? This could be valuable information for your classmate, but be respectful and stay professional as you respond.
3. Did the thesis statement generate interest? Think about the audience your classmate was writing for. Tell them who you believe the audience might be – it might be different from what the writer thought. If possible, can you think of ways the thesis statement might be more dramatic?

**Deliverables** By the end of class write your thesis statement and respond to at least two of your classmates by answering the above questions. Print out your thesis and answers and hand in before you leave class today. Title this work, “Discussion – Thesis”

### **SUMMARY**

- The thesis statement states the limited subject and the author's point-of-view.
- Thesis statements drive essays and other higher-level writing assignments like topic sentences drive paragraphs and some pure, factual reports.
- Evidence is needed to back up thesis statements in assignments that go beyond asking for the writer's experiences.
- Finding evidence takes patience. One source might lead you to another. What's more, you might find that your original idea for a claim might be disproved by some preliminary research.