Thesis Statements Practice #1:

Practice Finding Opinion Words

Thesis: As you explore your subject, you will begin to see possible ways to connect your ideas. A sentence that links all your main ideas and explains your opinion on those ideas is called a thesis statement. Generally, you will want to put your thesis in the opening paragraph of your essay.

Opinion: A thesis should contain a topic (what you are writing about), an opinion about the topic and why you feel the way you feel (what your attitude is toward the topic), and reasons why you hold that view (explanations answering “why?” or “so what?”). In other words, a thesis needs to be an arguable assertion that can be proven with facts and opinions. To check to see if a thesis is arguable, locate the opinion words.

Locating the Opinion in a Thesis:

When you look for the opinion in a thesis, ask yourself what the writer’s attitude is towards the topic.

1. “Many hip-hop songs are sexist because they make women look like pretty pictures with no substance.”

In the thesis, the topic is: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Counter claim to the opinion would be: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The attitude the reader has indicates what the essay will be focused on: demonstrating why hip-hop songs are “sexist.” This thesis statement limits the writer’s focus and clearly tells the reader what the essay will be about.

Underline the opinion words below; if there are no opinion words, it is not a thesis. Re-write the thesis to so that it is dynamic ( Topic + Opinion + Why).

1) In this essay I will discuss abortion.

2) Television is destroying the unity of the modern family.

3) In her essay, Erlich shows that there is a balance of community and isolation in her hometown.

4) While text messaging can be a handy way to stay in touch with friends and family, many people

text compulsively causing them to be distracted.

5) Similar to Andrew Lamb’s experience in Trash, my uncle has taught me the best lesson that the

importance of putting family first.