HOW TO WRITE A THESIS STATEMENT

*You will be writing a Thesis Statement as part of your Research Paper Assignment.

I. Descriptive Paper – (One Artist Only)
*In Sentence #1 - You must identify the artist whose work you will be discussing in your Research Paper. You must provide the artist's country of origin along with their birth and death dates, in parenthesis following the artist's name. You will only present very general information about the artist, or the style with which he or she is associated.
*For example (Sentence #1): Pablo Ruiz Picasso (Spain, 1881-1973) is noted for his innovative Cubist paintings.

*Sentence #2 must begin with the phrase, "By analyzing ...", or "Through an analysis of ...". You must clearly identify the specific piece of art (title, date, and medium). You must include only one piece of art or architecture. And, finally, you must identify the two approaches you will be utilizing in your Research Paper. Do not select more than two approaches. Some possible approaches are: formal elements (such as color, composition, style, technique, materials, subject matter, etc.) and, historical, cultural, social, political, intellectual, psychological, spiritual, religious, or symbolic approaches. You can use other approaches with the instructor's approval.

*For example (Sentence #2): Through an analysis of “Glass and Bottle of Suze” (1912, oil), the process of meshing style and technique is more easily understood.

*Example - Both Sentences: Pablo Ruiz Picasso (Spain, 1881-1973) is noted for his innovative Cubist paintings. Through an analysis of “Glass and Bottle of Suze” (1912, oil), the process of meshing style and technique is more easily understood.

II. Comparative Paper – (Two Artists Only)
*In Sentence #1 - You must identify both artists whose works you will be comparing in your Research Paper. You will include their countries of origin and their birth and death dates in parenthesis after their names. You will only include general information regarding the artists and their styles.

*For example (Sentence #1): Undoubtedly, Francis Bacon (Ireland, 1909-1992) and Lucian Freud (Germany, 1922- ) are both respected as masters of modern figurative painting.

*Sentence #2 must begin with the phrase, "By comparing ..." or "Through a comparison of ..." You must identify the specific pieces of art (by title and date) that you will be comparing. And finally, you will identify the 2 approaches you will be utilizing in your Research Paper. Do not select more than two approaches. Some possible approaches are: formal elements (such as color, composition, style, technique, materials, subject matter, etc.) and, historical, cultural,
social, political, intellectual, psychological, spiritual, religious, symbolic approaches. You can use other approaches with the instructor's approval.

*For example (Sentence #2): By comparing the style and technique of Bacon’s triptych "Three Studies of Lucian Freud" (1969, oil on canvas) with Freud’s "Reflection with Two Children" (self-portrait, 1965, oil on canvas), the artists’ distinct characteristics emerge.

*Final Example: Undoubtedly, Francis Bacon (Ireland, 1909-1992) and Lucian Freud (Germany, 1922- ) are both respected as masters of modern figurative painting. By comparing the style and technique of Bacon’s triptych "Three Studies of Lucian Freud" (1969, oil on canvas), with Freud’s "Reflection with Two Children" (self-portrait, 1965, oil on canvas), the artists’ distinct characteristics emerge.

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