

EXERCISE 2-1 Thesis Statements

In each of the following pairs, which sentence might work well as a thesis for a paper based on personal experience (not on reading)? 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. From the time I was a young child, I have always had at least three cats.
- b. In addition to being the perfect size to be kept indoors, cats are clean, loving, graceful, and surprisingly intelligent animals.
- 3a. 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.
- 4a. Immigrants from many lands have made major contributions to American culture.
- b. When Uncle Jacob stepped onto Ellis Island with only a small suitcase and the clothes on his back, no one could have predicted that one day his stone carvings would grace many buildings and monuments in our nation's capital.
- 5a. 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.