

Sample Thesis Statement and Topic Sentences

Thesis statement:

In this essay, I'm going to tell you that I think Boxer is the most important character. *Never use phrases such as "in this essay" or "In this paragraph." First (I, me, my, mine, etc) and second (you, your, yours) person pronouns should be avoided!*

Poor example of a thesis statement

Revised thesis statement

In the novel *Animal Farm* by George Orwell, Boxer is clearly one of the most critical characters.

Topic Sentences:

Boxer is a hard worker. *This topic sentence does not contain a transition word or phrase. It also does not have a clear connection to the main idea of the essay—that Spender is important to the overall story.*

Poor example of a topic sentence.

Better topic sentences. Note the use of transitions, and the repeated references to the overall topic of the paper. Also, you'll see that the word "important" has been substituted with synonyms to make the essay less monotonous.

First, Boxer is important because he is a hard worker.

Next, Boxer accepts what is asked of him, making him a valuable character.

Most importantly, the other animals on Animal Farm are motivated by Boxer, therefore proving his significance.

