

### Thesis Statement Writing Practice

**Directions:** Create a thesis statement for the following writing prompts. (Review notes on thesis statements.)

- 1.) In his 2004 book, *Status Anxiety*, Alain de Botton argues that the chief aim of humorists is not merely to entertain but “to convey with impunity messages that might be dangerous or impossible to state directly.” Because society allows humorists to say things that other people cannot or will not say, de Botton sees humorists as serving a vital function in society.

Think about the implications of de Botton’s view of the role of humorists (cartoonists, stand-up comics, satirical writers, hosts of television programs, etc.). Then write an essay that defends, challenges, or qualifies de Botton’s claim about the vital role of humorists. Use specific, appropriate evidence to develop your position.

- 2.) Your city council is debating a proposal by local merchants to outlaw skateboarding on any public properties. The final decision will be made soon and will go into effect immediately.

Write a letter to your council representative to convince him/her of your way of thinking.

- 3.) Although fear is a common human emotion, our response to it varies. Using an example from literature, history, science, film, or your own experience or observation, write an essay analyzing a particular response to fear and the effect of that response.

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