

Name: _____ () Date: _____

Every composition has a structure, like a skeletal system, which holds the ideas together.

INTRODUCTION	Introduces the main idea of the composition in a thesis statement
BODY	Each body paragraph: ● Expresses one main idea ● Has a topic sentence that supports the thesis ● Gives supporting details
CONCLUSION	Rounds up the main points in the composition

THESIS STATEMENT

- Tell readers what the composition is about
- Responds directly to the topic
- Be formulated in a sentence
- Be given in the opening paragraph

The Thesis statement responds to the topic in the following four ways:

Answers the question and states the main idea of the composition	Topic: What problems do young people like you face? (Personal expository composition) Problems are part and parcel of life. We all faced various problems in different phases of our lives. Adults have their own set of problems and so do young people. Some say youth is the most difficult phase one has to go through. Indeed, a host of problems awaits the youngsters straddled between childhood and adulthood. Topic: What are the advantages and disadvantages of large families? (factual expository composition) Large families are generally a thing of the past, especially in modern societies like Singapore. The idea of having more than three children is typically shunned here because of the high cost of raising children and the harried pace of life. Just as there are two sides to every coin, there are advantages and disadvantages to large families.
Answers the composition topic by stating your stand	Topic: 'Everyone should sometimes do things that he does not enjoy doing'. Do you agree with this statement? (Argumentative composition) Some things ensure our emotional and physical well-being and we ought to do them though they may not be fun. Even if something may seem boring and meaningless, we should try it at

	least once to find out for ourselves what it can teach us. The recent Secondary three camp is a perfect example of an event that some of us might not enjoy but it is definitely meaningful and memorable for all of us.
Reiterates the topic and tells readers what the composition is about	Topic: Write about some kinds of books you enjoy reading. (Personal expository composition) When one is lonely, the perfect companion is a book. A book can fill your hours with delight as you escape into other worlds and vicariously live the lives of the characters within the pages. Amidst the bustle and hustle of daily living, a book can ease our minds and offer escape from the noise of the world. I love reading. The kinds of books I most enjoy are fantasy, thrillers and science fiction. Topic: Describe your favourite place in your house. (Descriptive composition) When I started studying in Secondary one, my family decided to convert the guest room into a study for me. Since then, I have spent most of my time there and I have developed strong feeling for this sanctuary of mine. When I return home from school, I go to the study right away. As soon as I enter this room, I feel myself leaving behind the stress of the day and entering a realm of tranquillity. The study is truly my favourite place in my house.
Shows how you interpret the topic, how you will approach it and what aspects you will cover	Topic: Write about an important gift in your life. We all receive gifts every now and then. We sometimes receive gifts on special occasions like a birthday. When we do well for an examination, we may also receive a present from our parents. Then there are holidays such as Christmas when we shower our friends and family with gifts to show our love for them. Few of us forget the special gifts we have received, for gifts have a significant place in our hearts. One such gift was my favourite teddy bear from my late maternal grandmother.

VARIATION IN THESIS STATEMENTS

There is no hard-and-fast rule about how to frame your thesis statement. The key is to provide a compass so that reader know where your composition is heading.

General VS Comprehensive thesis statement	General Thesis Statement Problems are parts and parcels of life. We all faced various problems in different phases of our lives. Adults have their own set of problems and so do young people. Some say youth is the most difficult phase one has to go through. Indeed, a host of problems awaits the youngsters straddled between childhood and adulthood.
	Comprehensive Thesis Statement Problems are part and parcel of life. We all faced various problems in different phases of our lives. Adults have their own set of problems and so do young people. Some say youth is the most difficult phase one has to go through. The

	problems that beset the young centre around generation gap, school and peer pressure issues.
Two-sentence Thesis statements A thesis statement is usually given in one sentence. But a two sentence thesis may help narrow the focus further.	This example names <u>three specific areas</u> the writer wants to address in the composition. Problems are parts and parcels of life. We all faced various problems in different phases of our lives. Adults have their own set of problems and so do young people. Some say youth is the most difficult phase one has to go through. Some problems young people face centre around generation gap between them and their parents. School-related difficulties also beset youngsters as does peer pressure. This example gives a <u>broad thesis statement</u> first and then gives a <u>sneak preview</u> of the main points. Problems are parts and parcels of life. We all faced various problems in different phases of our lives. Adults have their own set of problems and so do young people. Some say youth is the most difficult phase one has to go through. Indeed, a host of problems awaits youngsters straddled between childhood and adulthood. These problems centre around generation gap, school and peer pressure issues.