THESIS CONSTRUCTION EXAMPLES

**Expository thesis: Statement of fact**

**Persuasive thesis: Opinion**

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Expository thesis:

The term “Renaissance” applied to that period of history that began in the 15th century in Italy and includes a revival of Greek and Roman culture.

Persuasive thesis:

Although Renaissance culture involved much more than a mere revival of Greek and Roman culture, the term “Renaissance” is a valid name for the period.

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Expository thesis:

The causes of the French Revolution were poverty, Enlightenment, deficit government spending, and a clash between the established aristocracy and a rising bourgeoisie.

Persuasive thesis:

There were many causes of the French Revolution, but the most important was the clash between the entrenched aristocracy and a rising bourgeoisie.

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Expository thesis:

A rising crime rate and a new class of homeless people have marked the end of Communist domination in the former Soviet Union.

Persuasive thesis:

A rising crime rate and a new class of homeless people have been a cause, not an effect, of the end of Communist domination in the former Soviet Union.

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Expository thesis:

Three revolutions, the agricultural revolution, the industrial revolution based on steam, and the industrial revolution based on electricity all were important to the creation of modern society.

Persuasive thesis:

The information revolution will prove more important than the agricultural or industrial revolutions.

Decide which of the following statements are persuasive theses and which are expository. Write P in front of persuasive theses and E in front of expository ones.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. The period of exploration involved many countries.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Although some people believe that the Reformation was primarily religious

in nature, the Reformation was primarily social.

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. There were many causes of the Renaissance, including the Crusades, the

growth of trade in Italy, the growth of cities, and a reawakened interest in the Classics.

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. Of all of the Renaissance painters, Michelangelo was the greatest.

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. The growth of science during the 14th and 15th centuries was a direct

reflection of the work of Francis Bacon and the impact of the printing press.

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. Marsilio Ficino wrote of the Neoplatonic belief in two virtues, one being

justice and the other wisdom.

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. Although women during the Middle Ages had a certain amount of freedom,

women of the Renaissance were more restricted.

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. Luther’s hymn, *Lord Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word*, refers to the pope

and the Turks as seeking to topple Jesus from the throne.

\_\_\_\_\_ 9. Bartholomew Dias truly began the Age of Exploration.

\_\_\_\_\_ 10. The Council of Trent began the downward slide of the Catholic Church.