

THESIS WRITING: AN EXERCISE

Please identify the items below that qualify as a thesis statement with a “yes” and those that do not with a “no.”

_____ The pros and cons of capital punishment.

_____ The percentage of college students who vote has decreased in recent years.

_____ In my paper, I will review the causes for the decrease in voter registration.

_____ Great Britain entered World War II before the United States.

_____ The federal government should get out of welfare programs because welfare needs vary from community to community and because doing so would reduce cheating.

_____ The complex issues of voter registration.

_____ In this paper, I want to focus on why Malcolm X was a great leader.

_____ "Watergate" was the name given to a scandal of the 1970's.

_____ The great leadership qualities of Martin Luther King.

_____ The U.S. should have entered World War II at the same time that Great Britain did because doing so would have slowed Hitler's momentum in taking over of Europe.

_____ My purpose in this paper will be to show why Frederick Douglass was a great leader.

_____ Martin Luther King's greatness stemmed from his ability to harness the moral indignation of whites and blacks alike through the power of non-violent protest in his actions of civil disobedience, the dignity of the Biblical rhythm in his speeches, and the pure power of right over wrong that his message conveyed.

Adapted by Jane Cogie, 10/21/97

from Farrelly, James P. and Lorraine M. Murphy. A Practical Guide to Research Papers. N.Y: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1988. 52-56.

