

Four Writing Skeletons™ on English Language Arts Topics

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If you are not used to beginning an expository nonfiction writing project by creating a working thesis, you may find it hard to see how it helps writers quickly narrow a topic.

By examining the four writing skeleton™ below, you can see how some educated guesses lets writers create a sentence outlines from a working thesis. After that, by using the keywords of the writing skeleton™, writers can research to see whether there is a reasonable likelihood of the working thesis producing a decent essay.

For more about preparing a working thesis and writing skeleton™ see these pages:

[What Is A Thesis Statement But an Embryonic Essay?](#)
[Thesis Builder Crafts a Working Thesis Statement in a Twinkling](#)
[Make a Thesis Work to Reduce Revision Needed Later](#)
[How to Write a Thesis: Add to What You Have Already](#)
[Write a Thesis for Authentic Writing Prompts by Guessing](#)
[Create an Outline Fast by Not Starting with a Writing Topic](#)
[How to Make an Outline by Filling in Three Blanks](#)
[Outline for Essay Is a Cinch with Tiny Tweak to Skeleton](#)

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If you use or adapt these materials for your classes, the courtesy of an acknowledgment would be most appreciated. You can even share how you used a prompt in the [writing process forum](#). (Hint, hint.)

To enable you to use these skeletons in your classes without needing to retype, you may cut and paste from a [text file](#) I prepared. Please confine your uses to your classroom and do not publish copies on blogs, web pages, etc. Thanks!

Working thesis: Words borrowed from other languages make learning English spelling difficult.

1. Words borrowed from other languages make learning English spelling difficult because words borrowed from Spanish use different letter combinations to create English sounds.
2. Words borrowed from other languages make learning English spelling difficult because words borrowed from Latin use different letter combinations to create

English sounds.

3. Words borrowed from other languages make learning English spelling difficult because words borrowed from French use different letter combinations to create English sounds.

Working thesis: Passive voice constructions may be more appropriate than active voice.

1. Passive voice constructions may be more appropriate than active voice because in some situations the actor is not known.

2. Passive voice constructions may be more appropriate than active voice because in some situations the actor does not wish to claim responsibility for his/her actions.

3. Passive voice constructions may be more appropriate than active voice because in some situations the action is more important than the actor.

Working thesis: Writing is harder than presenting the same ideas orally.

1. Writing is harder than presenting the same ideas orally because writers cannot see who is in their audience.

2. Writing is harder than presenting the same ideas orally because writers cannot get immediate feedback from their audience.

3. Writing is harder than presenting the same ideas orally because writers have to explain verbally clues that a speaker conveys nonverbally.

Working thesis: Brilliant Author uses nature to develop his theme that life is a cycle.

1. I know that Brilliant Author uses nature to develop his theme that life is a cycle because Author uses natural settings.

2. I know that Brilliant Author uses nature to develop his theme that life is a cycle because Author uses nature metaphors.

3. I know that Brilliant Author uses nature to develop his theme that life is a cycle because Author uses nature symbolically.