Thesis Statement Outline

Use the outline below, which is based on the five-paragraph essay model, when drafting a plan for your own essay. This is meant as a guide only, so we encourage you to revise it in a way that works best for you.

Introductory Paragraph
Start your introduction with an interesting "hook" to reel your reader in. An introduction can begin with a rhetorical question, a quotation, an anecdote, a concession, an interesting fact, or a question that will be answered in your paper. The idea is to begin broadly and gradually bring the reader closer to the main idea of the paper. At the end of the introduction, you will present your thesis statement. The thesis statement model used in this example is a thesis with reasons.

Even though television can be educational, parents should regulate the amount of television their children watch because it shortens children's attention spans, it inhibits social interaction, and it is not always intellectually stimulating

Paragraph #1
First, parents should regulate the amount of television their children watch because it shortens children's attention spans.

Notice that this Assertion is the first reason presented in the thesis statement. Remember that the thesis statement is a kind of "mapping tool" that helps you organize your ideas, and it helps your reader follow your argument. In this body paragraph, after the Assertion, include any evidence a quotation, statistic, data—that supports this first point. Explain what the evidence means. Show the reader how this entire paragraph connects back to the thesis statement.

Paragraph #2
Additionally, it inhibits social interaction.

The first sentence of the second body paragraph should reflect an even stronger Assertion to support the thesis statement. Generally, the second point listed in the thesis statement should be developed here. Like with the previous paragraph, include any evidence a quotation, statistic, data that supports this point after the Assertion. Explain what the
evidence means. Show the reader how this entire paragraph connects back to the thesis statement.

**Paragraph #3**
Finally, the most important reason *parents should regulate the amount of television their children watch is it is not always intellectually stimulating.*

Your strongest point should be revealed in the final body paragraph. Also, if it's appropriate, you can address and refute any opposing viewpoints to your thesis statement here. As always, include evidence a quotation, statistic, data that supports your strongest point. Explain what the evidence means. Show the reader how this entire paragraph connects back to the thesis statement.

**Concluding Paragraph**
Indeed, while *television can be educational, parents should regulate the amount of television their children watch.*

Rephrase your thesis statement in the first sentence of the conclusion. Instead of summarizing the points you just made, synthesize them. Show the reader how everything fits together. While you don't want to present new material here, you can echo the introduction, ask the reader questions, look to the future, or challenge your reader.

**Remember:** This outline is based on the five-paragraph model. Expand or condense it according to your particular assignment or the size of your opinion/main idea. Again, use this tips as many times as you like, until you reach a thesis statement and outline that works for you.