

Engl 1B, Fall 2005
First Essay: Three Thesis Statements
In Class

Your handbook says that a thesis statement is carefully worded; and it also

1. “communicates your essay’s main idea,”
2. “is more than a general subject, a statement of fact, or an announcement of your intent,” and
3. “suggests your essay’s direction, emphasis, and scope” (8-9).

After you have had a chance to discuss with your group some of the issues involved in the “Intelligent Design” debate, you will have fifteen minutes to compose three different thesis statements that you might use in an essay on the subject. Later, you will have a chance to share these with your group, and receive feedback on the three qualities listed above. Please make two copies of your thesis statements: one to hand in, the other to take home to help you complete the second part of the assignment (below).

Engl 1B, Fall 2005
First Essay: Three Paragraphs
Due: September 22nd

Your handbook says that, typically, an opening paragraph “introduces the subject, narrows it, and then states the essay’s thesis” (23). Often, it is the most important paragraph in an essay, and a well-conceived and well-executed beginning usually makes any essay easier to compose—especially an in-class one.

For this part of the assignment, you are to turn the three thesis statements you composed in class into three opening paragraphs for essays you might write on the “Intelligent Design” controversy. (If you wish, you can revise the three thesis statements you wrote in class, or discard them entirely and come up with three new ones.) The point of this exercise is to satisfy that description of an opening paragraph in three different ways. None of your paragraphs should have fewer than four sentences, or fewer than one hundred words. Please type and double-space them, just as you would a regular essay. Also, please make two copies of your paragraphs—one to hand in at the beginning of class on Thursday, and the other to use in peer editing during that class.