Activity 1 – Identifying Problems with Thesis Statements

Directions: For each thesis statement, identify the problem(s) from the list. *Note: Some thesis statement may have more than one problem.

Common Thesis Statement Problems
- Lack of Focus
- Lack of supporting points
- Confusing supporting points
- Too much information
- Inappropriate language

1) I believe assisted suicide causes two main problems: difficulty in regulating it and difficulty for patients in making a rational choice.

Problem(s): __________________________________________________________________________________

2) The Internet leads to improved communication.

Problem(s): __________________________________________________________________________________

3) Several cultural factors lead to the prevalence of child labor in Latin America: family values, the company managers back in the United States, inflation, poor transportation systems, a lack of emphasis on education, and religion.

Problem(s): __________________________________________________________________________________

4) This paper is about cloning.

Problem(s): __________________________________________________________________________________

5) Homeschooling results in closer family ties, flexible time schedules for parent and child, and a desire for more educational choices.

Problem(s): __________________________________________________________________________________
Activity 2 – Identifying Parts of a Thesis Statement

Directions:
- Circle the topic
- Underline the focus once (*Note: One thesis statement has more than 1 focus)
- Underline the supporting points twice (double-underline)

1) Although our memory of John F. Kennedy has been frozen, he is remembered for many reasons: his political achievements, the way his public behavior reflected American values, and the mystery of his assassination.

2) Several important factors make Bruce Lee extraordinary: his family background, his dramatic life, his skill as a martial artist, and his philosophy of life.

3) Society should develop an awareness of factors that motivate children to act violently, such as family problem and the influence of the media, and also consider says to prevent juvenile violence, including better support for parents and improved monitoring of media.

4) Simplicity, emptiness, directness, and naturalness are four traditional characteristics of Japanese art inspired by Buddhism.

5) There are several reasons why people smoke even though they know it is a habit that can bring death: social pressure, psychological need, and physical addiction.