

UNSTATED ASSUMPTIONS

A) Identify the unstated assumption(s) in each thesis below.

B) Is this a good thesis? Why or why not? Is it a suitable enthymeme?

1. Art is a fundamental part of any vital, productive, and free-thinking society.
Therefore, for the sake of the country, we must increase funding to the National Endowment of the Arts.
2. Smoking should be outlawed because it poses a risk to public health.
3. Texting should be outlawed since it poses a risk to public health.
4. The theory of evolution should not be taught in schools because it contradicts a literal reading of the Bible.
5. The theory of evolution should be taught in schools because it is a valid scientific theory.
6. Lady Gaga has little influence on society since nobody else dresses in her fashions.
7. New gun control laws are unnecessary since some criminals will always be able to purchase guns illegally.
8. Genetic modifications of human beings to improve their health should be illegal because it creates unnatural changes in the human body that would otherwise never occur.
9. Corrective surgery on human beings to improve their health should be illegal because it creates unnatural changes in the human body that would otherwise never occur.
10. The public good in the United States would best be served by using stricter law enforcement to prevent illegal immigrants from entering the USA because this policy would stop such immigrants from competing with legal citizens for jobs.
11. The public good in America would best be served by allowing easier access to citizenship for immigrants because this policy would create a larger pool of cheap labor to package and harvest agricultural goods, making food and products less expensive for everyone across the nation.