

AWFUL THESIS EXERCISE

The following theses are terrible. Each one has a problem that might later prevent it from becoming an effective thesis; few of them are restricted or provide a solid focus for an essay. Either indicate what is wrong or fix them so they meet all the requirements for an enthymematic argument.

- (1) In the area of mental processes, I think women are more intelligent than men.
- (2) In my opinion, the U. S. Marines are the greatest fighting force in the world.
- (3) Reading is a valuable asset because it is useful to be able to read.
- (4) Representative Tom Delay believes people on welfare are just plain lazy.
- (5) Boxing is a violent sport that can lead to injury since it has the highest ratio of injuries of any athletics event.
- (6) The Lady Eagles are most likely to win the softball tournament this year.
- (7) Owning an SUV is a status symbol in American suburbia.
- (8) Surveys show 32% of East Tennessee students would support legislation to secede from the rest of western Tennessee and form a new political entity.
- (9) All mothers have a maternal instinct to protect their children,
- (10) This essay will show that the United States could withdraw from the United Nations in six separate stages over a nine-month period.
- (11) The Tennessee public should have access to the records of child molestation cases because of safety.
- (12) Age restrictions on tobacco use should be lifted since they are stupid.

Part Two (13-14): Create two possible theses of your own in enthymeme format that deal with the readings we have covered so far. What questions at issue do they answer?