Analytical Thesis Statement Formula

This is the basic thesis statement formula we will be using for all writing assignments in this class-all year long! Keep this handout to reference whenever you are required to write a thesis statement.

Step 1: Brainstorm

Using T-charts, Venn Diagrams, Thinking Maps, or any other form of notetaking. write down all of the facts (or evidence) you have the relates to the prompt.

Step 2: Write!

Below is the basic formula you will be using to write your thesis statement:

 ***X*** = counterargument

 ***Y*** = your actual argument that addresses the prompt

 ***A, B, C*** = pieces of evidence that support your true argument (these should be broad I ideas)

**Beginning Words:** Your complex analytical thesis statement should begin with one of the following words or phrases—

After Even if Though

Although Even though Unless

As If Until

As long as In order that When

As soon as Once Whenever

Because Since Wherever

Before So that While

**Format:** *Beginning word* ***X, Y*** (because of) ***A, B,*** and ***C***.

Here is an example for the following prompt:

“Was John Brown a Freedom Fighter or a Terrorist?”

**Thesis:** Although some may view John Brown as a terrorist in American history, he actually was a freedom fighter because his goal of ending slavery was a righteous one, he believed he was following the will of God, and he was willing to fight and die to end to slavery.