**Sample Thesis Statements: SAGES Portfolio Committee 2017**

**CWRU Writing Program & SAGES: Fall 2017**

In 2017, the SAGES Portfolio Committee, composed of members from across the university, identified examples of effective thesis statements from student portfolios as well as from publications in their disciplines. These thesis statements are presented below.

The Writing Program encourages you to consider them as possible examples or models in teaching argumentation and the crafting of thesis statements as well as in introducing students to disciplinary genres.

**From SAGES Seminars**

1. While pre-implantation genetic diagnosis raises ethical concerns such as the objectification of people with disorders, parents should be able to use PGD to select against serious disorders in their children, as long as the technology is regulated to be used for diseases that are sufficiently severe and have the potential to cause harm to the child’s life, because the well-being and health of the child outweigh the potential societal risks of the technology.
2. World War I gave birth to a new world in which the nature of war changed forever. A monumental shift occurred in both the way wars were fought and in its heroes and victims. Carried out by the new warriors of the sky, aerial warfare and the strategic bombing of enemy cities would dominate future wars, making innocent civilians legitimate targets, forever shattering the idea of *jus in bello*.
3. Mandatory minimum sentences are constitutional, but numerous scholars and critics have recognized and challenged the unjust nature of current law enforcement. Typically, people convicted of certain crimes, such as the possession of crack cocaine, must be punished with a minimum number of years in prison under this system. In conjunction with other systematic factors like law enforcement and prosecution, mandatory sentences have resulted in disproportionate incarceration of African Americans. These rulings have only strengthened and encouraged unfair punishments towards non-violent drug offenders and have resulted in negative consequences for those felons. Mandatory minimum sentences ought to either be curtailed or completely rescinded in order to elude further injustice and discrimination in the lawmaking system.
4. While scientists have come close to obtaining a working vaccine, stopping the spread of Ebola will not succeed due to the ineffective preventive measures already in place. Le Guin uses an imprisoned child in “The Ones Who Walk Away From Omelas” to depict the darkness in society and uses it to criticize how we live our lives today. … However, the happiness they experience might only be an illusion, as they are only content with their lives, walking around with archaic smiles, living with the reassurance that they are better off than at least one person. A system where the suffering of the few is necessary for the happiness of the many could be a critique of how we live our lives today.
5. The games *Bioshock* and *Bioshock Infinite* are examples of two dystopian realities. Each showcases the dangers of political extremism and the need for governmental balance. *Bioshock* exhibits that of an unregulated and ardently libertarian society and *Bioshock Infinite* highlights the intrinsic problems within a militaristic theocracy. Through the downfall of the two cities, Rapture and Columbia respectively, the games also critique American history and the present through allusions and references to current beliefs and philosophies. The message that the two videogames deliver is the inability to achieve the political utopia. Both *Bioshock* and *Bioshock Infinite* demonstrate that there is no system without fault and the most successful government is one which adapts to the needs of its civilization.
6. The progression of a capitalist economy, remnants of past discrimination, and the evolvement of racism, both personal bias and institutional racism, work together to maintain the subjugated position of poor and uneducated African Americans in modern society.

**From ENGL 398 (SAGES Departmental Seminar)**

1. As our review of the literature demonstrates, the utilization of Social Exchange Theory (SET) often leads to paradoxes and strong limitations in research. To examine these situations, we draw upon multiple disciplines of scholarly works that attempt to explain behavioral significance with SET, following closely the articles and case studies through which SET is invoked. Such levels of factors include the intersections of race and social capital, traditional gender roles, emotional components, and complex buyer-supplier relationships that depict SET to be testable.

**From SAGES Capstone Projects**

1. Given the importance of autonomy and health-related quality of life in patient outcome, the importance of autonomy during adolescence, the high incidence of brain injury in the adolescent population, and the little empirical evidence available for this population, the overall purpose of this study is to explore levels of perceived autonomy and health related quality of life during the acute rehabilitation process in teen brain injury survivors*.*
2. Bateman’s principle suggests that, because male gametes are energetically cheap to produce and eggs and parental care are costly, female reproductive variance should not be dependent on access to mates, but rather by access to resources. This suggests that females might experience strong selection pressure to produce only as many gametes as they have the resources to mature. However, a surprisingly large amount of flowering plants make far fewer seeds than ovules, such that they make fewer seeds under ambient conditions than when pollen is supplemented experimentally, a phenomenon called pollen limitation (PL). Environmental stochasticity, which often results in large variation in the reproductive success of both males and females, could be one explanation for such unexpectedly high rates of PL. I hypothesized that, in a stochastic pollination environment, non-autogamous *Trillium* *grandiflorum* plants overproduce ovules relative to average pollen receipt as a “jackpot” strategy that is advantageous in the case of randomly high pollen loads.

**From Peer-Reviewed Disciplinary Examples**

1. Intervention for adolescents with traumatic brain injury (TBI) must take into account not only important changes at this stage, but also the interaction of development and injury effects on brain functions and structures*.* [from Psychological Sciences]
2. Despite striking differences in the gender projects of Unity Christians and goth men, they similarly navigate dilemmas posed by masculine expectations. Each group of men different renounces components of dominant notions of masculinity achieving more flexibility in the performance of masculinity. Yet, in the end, both the Christians’ and goths’ gender-blending project fail to challenge gendered power hierarchies. [from Gender Studies/Masculinity Studies]
3. Recent data from particle physics experiments such as Large Hadron Collider, together with new theoretical considerations, strongly motivate the search for super-symmetric dark matter in deep underground laboratories. [from Physics]
4. The detection of gravitational waves by the LIGO experiment match exactly predictions made nearly a century ago by Albert Einstein and allow scientists to rule out several potential alternative theories of gravity. [from Physics]