Sample research question and thesis format – steps for writing

Remember, your thesis should be in the “CLAIM + because + REASONS” format, which is essentially:

* **[Your argument, which is the answer to your research question]** because [**reasons why your argument is valid]**.

**EXAMPLE:**

**Research topic**: teen dating violence

**Research question**: What’s the best way to prevent teen dating violence?

**Answer to research question**: early relationship education

**What are the reasons why this is the answer?** Helps students recognize the red flags of unhealthy relationships, understand dangerous relationship examples around them, see bad pop culture influences, and teaches them to set healthy boundaries

**Final thesis**: Educating young people early in life about abusive relationships is the best way to prevent teen dating violence because it helps students recognize warning signs of abuse in their own relationships and in relationships around them, prepares them to ignore violent and controlling pop culture dating influences, and teaches them to set healthy personal boundaries so they can break the cycle of abuse.

Topic Outline

Reason 1: helps students recognize the warning signs of abuse in their own relationships and in relationships around them

**Topic Sentence: Teaching young students about the dangers of unhealthy relationships helps students recognize the warning signs of abuse in their own relationships and relationships around them.**

Reason 2: prepares them to ignore violent and controlling pop culture dating influences

**Topic Sentence: Educating young people about abusive relationships prepares them to ignore violent and controlling pop culture dating influences, like reality television.**

Reason 3: teaches them to set healthy personal boundaries so they can break the cycle of abuse

**Topic Sentence: Exposing students to relationship education early in life teaches them to set healthy personal and relationship boundaries that can help break the cycle of abuse.**

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ENGL 1102

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Research Thesis and Topic Outline – Teen Dating Violence

**Final thesis**: Educating young people early in life about abusive relationships is the best way to prevent teen dating violence because it helps students recognize warning signs of abuse in their own relationships and in relationships around them, prepares them to ignore violent and controlling pop culture dating influences, and teaches them to set healthy personal boundaries so they can break the cycle of abuse.

Topic Outline

1. Teaching young students about the dangers of unhealthy relationships helps students recognize the warning signs of abuse in their own relationships and relationships around them.
2. Educating young people about abusive relationships prepares them to ignore violent and controlling pop culture dating influences, like reality television.
3. Exposing students to relationship education early in life teaches them to set healthy personal and relationship boundaries that can help break the cycle of abuse.