

Identifying a Claim and Rewriting for Effect

Pattern A: Compound Sentence with Explanatory Statement (clauses separated by a colon)

General statement (idea) : specific statement (example).
(an independent clause) (an independent clause)

Example: *People and governments are messed up: they fail to recognize the danger of the obvious consequences of their choices and policies.*



What is the message of the political cartoon?

Topic: _____

Statement the cartoonist is attempting to make: _____

What is my personal view: _____

An effective claim statement using Pattern A:



Pattern B: Appositive, appositive, appositive—summary word SV.

(Key summary words may be—such, all, those, this, many, each, which, what, these, something, someone. Sometimes this summary word will be the subject but other times it will merely modify the subject.)

Example: The depressed, the stressed, the lonely, the fearful—all have trouble coping with the problems presented by modern living.

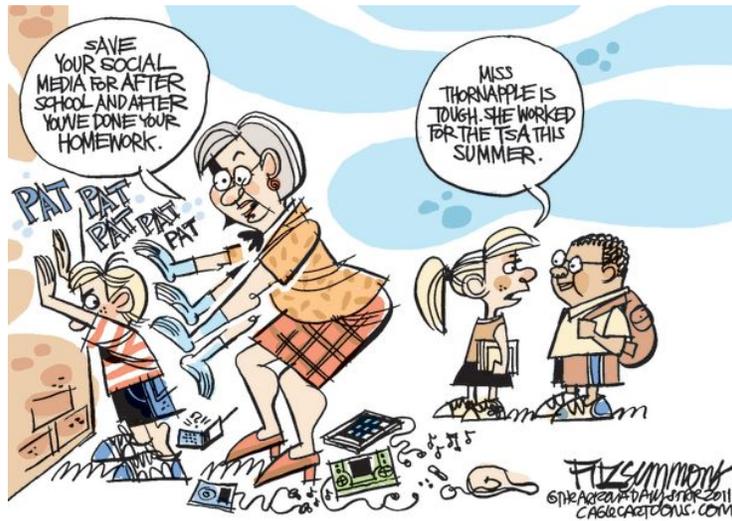
What is the message of the political cartoon?

Topic: _____

Statement the cartoonist is attempting to make: _____

What is my personal view: _____

An effective claim statement using Pattern B:



Pattern C: If . . . , if . . . , if . . . , then SV.

When . . . , when . . . , when . . . , SV.

SV that . . . , that . . . , that . . .

(omit the 3rd clause and have just 2, if you wish)

Example: Because it may seem difficult at first, because it may sound awkward or forced, because it often creates lengthy sentences where the thought “gets lost,” this pattern seems forbidding to some writers, but it isn’t all that hard; try it.

What is the message of the political cartoon?

Topic: _____

Statement the cartoonist is attempting to make: _____

What is my personal view: _____

An effective claim statement using Pattern C:



Pattern D: S, modifier, V.
S – modifier – V.
S (modifier that whispers) V.

*Notice the use of a comma, a dash, and parenthesis in these variations of the same pattern

Examples: A small drop of ink, falling (as Byron said) like dew upon a thought, can make millions think.

Patriots and Ravens, popular football teams, show few signs of being defeated.

Pattern D2: S – a full sentence—V.
S (a full sentence) V.

Examples: Juliet’s famous question—early in the balcony scene she asks, “Wherefore art thou Romeo?”—is often misunderstood; she meant not “where” but “why.”

He rushed at the opportunity (too impetuously, I thought) to go tree climbing.

What is the message of the political cartoon?

Topic: _____

Statement the cartoonist is attempting to make: _____

What is my personal view: _____

An effective claim statement using Pattern D or D2:
