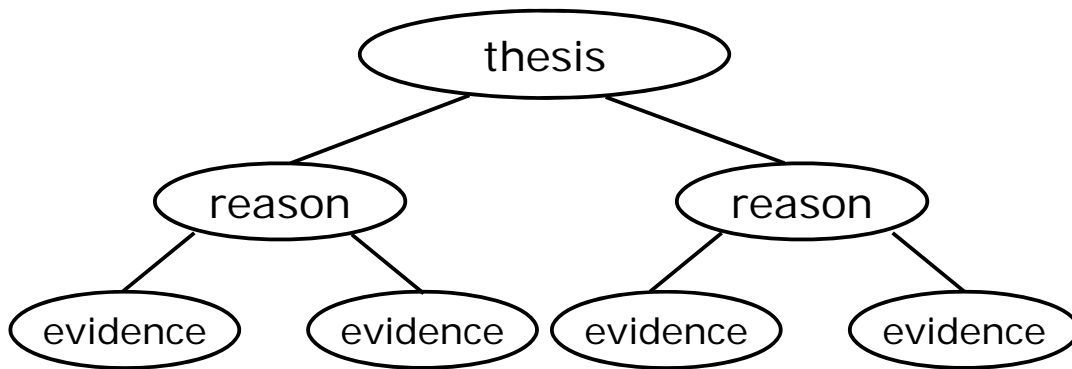# Supporting your thesis statement

In a persuasive essay, you must **support your thesis** with solid **reasons** and **evidence.** This builds a convincing argument with which to persuade readers.

Supporting your thesis statement with reasons

Reasons tell *why* you hold your point of view about an issue. The reasons you give must make sense if they are to persuade your reader.
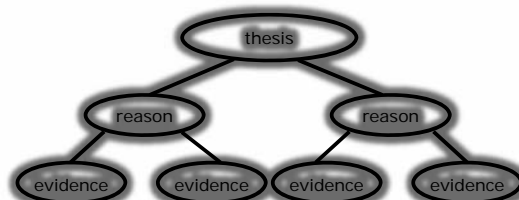
Example:

Reasons:

Licensing pets helps locate missing pets.

Licensing pets makes pet owners more responsible.

In our state, a pet must have had its rabies shots in order to be licensed.

CFU: What are reasons? What do reasons support? P/S two reasons to support your thesis and write them on your WB. Write the reasons on your graphic organizer.

Supporting your thesis statement with reasons

Give at least one—and preferably two or three—strong pieces of **evidence** to support each reason in your essay. There are many types of evidence:

expert opinions

facts

statistics

anecdotes and examples

Supporting your reasons

An **expert opinion** is the opinion of an authority on the issue. This cannot be used on an on-demand essay because you will not be able to interview anyone during the exam.

A veterinarian at a local animal shelter, Dr. Tamesha Lane, says, "We can now afford to care for more strays here with the money generated by pet licensing."

CFU: What is an expert opinion? Why is it not appropriate for an on-demand essay? PS, NV

Supporting your reasons

A **fact** is a statement that can be proved true.

In our state, the money generated by pet licensing goes for the care of stray animals.

A **statistic** is a fact in number form.

The money generated from pet licensing helps care for 50% of the strays in our state's shelters.

Facts and statistics cannot be used on on-demand essays unless you know the facts (like school rules) or you have memorized a statistic. Do not create pretend facts or statistics!

CFU: What is fact? How is a statistic different from a fact? WB, PS, NV

Supporting your reasons

An **anecdote** is a brief story that illustrates an idea.

My friend Mike had a cat that ran away two weeks ago. Mike's cat wasn't licensed, so his chances of getting the cat back are lower.

An **example** is a specific instance that illustrates a general idea.

Microchips used for pet licensing are very small; they are usually the size of a grain of rice.
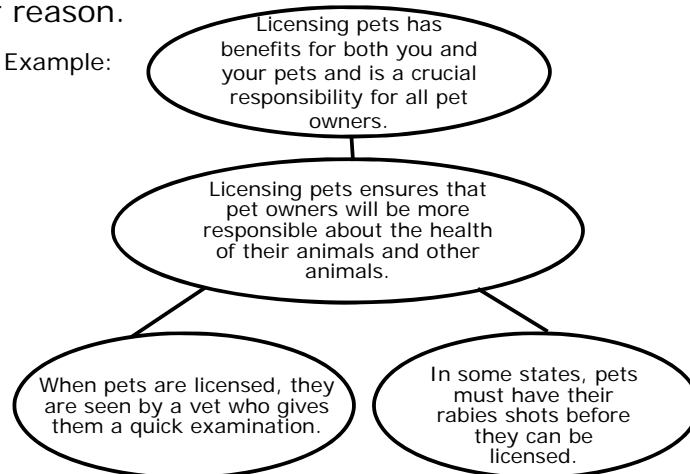
Both anecdotes and examples are perfect to use for an on-demand prompt and will be the focus support for our in-class essays.

CFU: What is an anecdote? How is an example different from an anecdote? Can we use anecdotes and examples for on-demand essays? WB, PS, NV

Supporting your reasons

Make sure the evidence you use in your essay clearly and directly supports each reason that you give. Include at least two pieces of evidence per reason.

Example:

> Licensing pets has benefits for both you and your pets and is a crucial responsibility for all pet owners.

> Licensing pets ensures that pet owners will be more responsible about the health of their animals and other animals.

> When pets are licensed, they are seen by a vet who gives them a quick examination.

> In some states, pets must have their rabies shots before they can be licensed.

CFU: What does evidence support? What is the least amount of evidence you should include per reason? Explain one piece of evidence for your reason to your partner. Why is it good evidence? Place it on your graphic organizer. Repeat. WB, PS, NV

Introduction (P #1)

A Writer's Model

> *My parents taught me to be responsible for our pet dog Jake. That is why we have licensed him. Although pet licensing is important for the safety of pets, it ignored by many owners. Licensing your pet, however, has benefits both for you and your family pet and is a crucial responsibility for all pet owners.*

Hook/engaging beginning

Overview of topic

Thesis statement

CFU: What three components are needed in the introduction of a persuasive essay? Looking at your graphic organizer, where will you find the information you need for this paragraph? Write your introduction in column #1. WB, PS, NV

Skill Development/Guided Practice: *Writing the essay*

Reason One (P #2)

A Writer's Model

Licensing can help you locate your pet if it is lost. In some states, a pet receives a license tag, but in our state, a chip with contact information is placed under your pet's skin. If your pet runs away, whoever finds it can take it to the nearest shelter. Workers at the shelter can scan the chip and find contact information. My friend Mike had a cat that ran away two weeks ago. Mike's cat wasn't licensed, and he still has not found his cat. If he had taken the opportunity to get his cat licensed, he might already have his cat back home.

reason #1

fact

anecdote

CFU: Discuss with your partner about what is needed in paragraph 2 of your essay. Looking at your graphic organizer, where will you find the information you need for this paragraph? Write your reason one paragraph in column #2. WB, PS, NV

Skill Development/Guided Practice: *Writing the essay*

Reason Two (P #3)

A Writer's Model

Not only will licensing help you locate a missing pet, but it will also ensure that you are a responsible pet owner by keeping up with your pet's shots. In our state, a pet must have had its rabies shots in order to be licensed. Since, rabies is a serious and deadly virus that can be transmitted from one animal to another, vaccinating your pet is obviously the responsible thing to do. Licensing your pet guarantees your pet gets this important shot, so being a responsible pet owner means purchasing a license for your pet.

reason #2

fact

fact

CFU: Compare the components of paragraph 3 to paragraph 2. What makes them similar? Looking at your graphic organizer, where will you find the information you need for this paragraph? Write your reason two paragraph in column #3. WB, PS, NV

Counterarguments

When you think about why your audience might disagree with you, you are considering their **counterarguments,** or reader concerns.

Counterargument: Many people think licensing their pet is too expensive.

Answer these counterarguments to show your audience that you have considered their concerns. This will make them more likely to agree with you.

Answering counterargument: Licensing a pet costs only $12.00. This is not very much money to protect your pet.

CFU: What is a counter argument? Why are counter arguments important to the essay? Share a possible counter argument to your thesis statement. How will you answer this reader concern? Write the counterargument and answer on your whiteboard. WB, PS, NV

Counterargument (P #4)

A Writer's Model

Some people might say that licensing a pet is too expensive, but licensing a pet is really inexpensive compared to other items pet owners must spend money on to care for a pet and the other benefits it holds. In our county, for example, it only costs $12.00 per year to license a pet. Not only is this less than the cost of one month supply of pet food, but is worth the peace of mind you will have if your pet is lost. Plus, the money from licensing helps care for stray animals in our state's shelters, including the shelter in our town. Although it is a minor cost, licensing is an important piece of pet care and owner responsibility.

counterargument

answer

example

fact

CFU: Write your counterargument paragraph in column #4. PS, NV