

# Can your thesis statement stand?

I compare the essay to a house that has structural supports. This metaphor helps my students understand the importance of each component.

Use the graphic organizer that follows to help your students assess whether or not their thesis statements can stand. In choosing a thesis statement for an argumentative essay, students should be considering what main points they will use to support it and how they might put it in different wording in their conclusion paragraphs.

As you ask students to complete this graphic organizer, anticipate that they might have a hard time seeing holes or flaws in their argument. Be available to give them feedback as they work through this brainstorming activity. Use teachable moments with the whole class if students are comfortable using their mistakes as learning opportunities for all.

**Version 1:** Students focus on their thesis and topic sentences.

**Version 2:** Students extend their thinking to include 3 supporting details for each topic sentence, which may or may not include research. Boxes are small because students are just jotting down ideas at this point.

**Version 3:** Version 3 is a web to help students narrow their overall topic to more specific ideas for their thesis statement. Consider modeling how to complete one with the whole class. An example is included.

# Can your thesis statement stand?

NAME:

CLASS:

DATE:

**INTRODUCTION**

Thesis Statement:

**PARAGRAPH 1**

Topic Sentence #1:

**PARAGRAPH 2**

Topic Sentence #2:

**PARAGRAPH 3**

Topic Sentence #3:

Restated & Reworded Thesis Statement:

**CONCLUSION**

# Can your thesis statement stand?

NAME:

CLASS:

DATE:

**INTRODUCTION**

Thesis Statement:

**PARAGRAPH 1**

Topic Sentence #1:

Support:

Support:

Support:

**PARAGRAPH 2**

Topic Sentence #2:

Support:

Support:

Support:

**PARAGRAPH 3**

Topic Sentence #3:

Support:

Support:

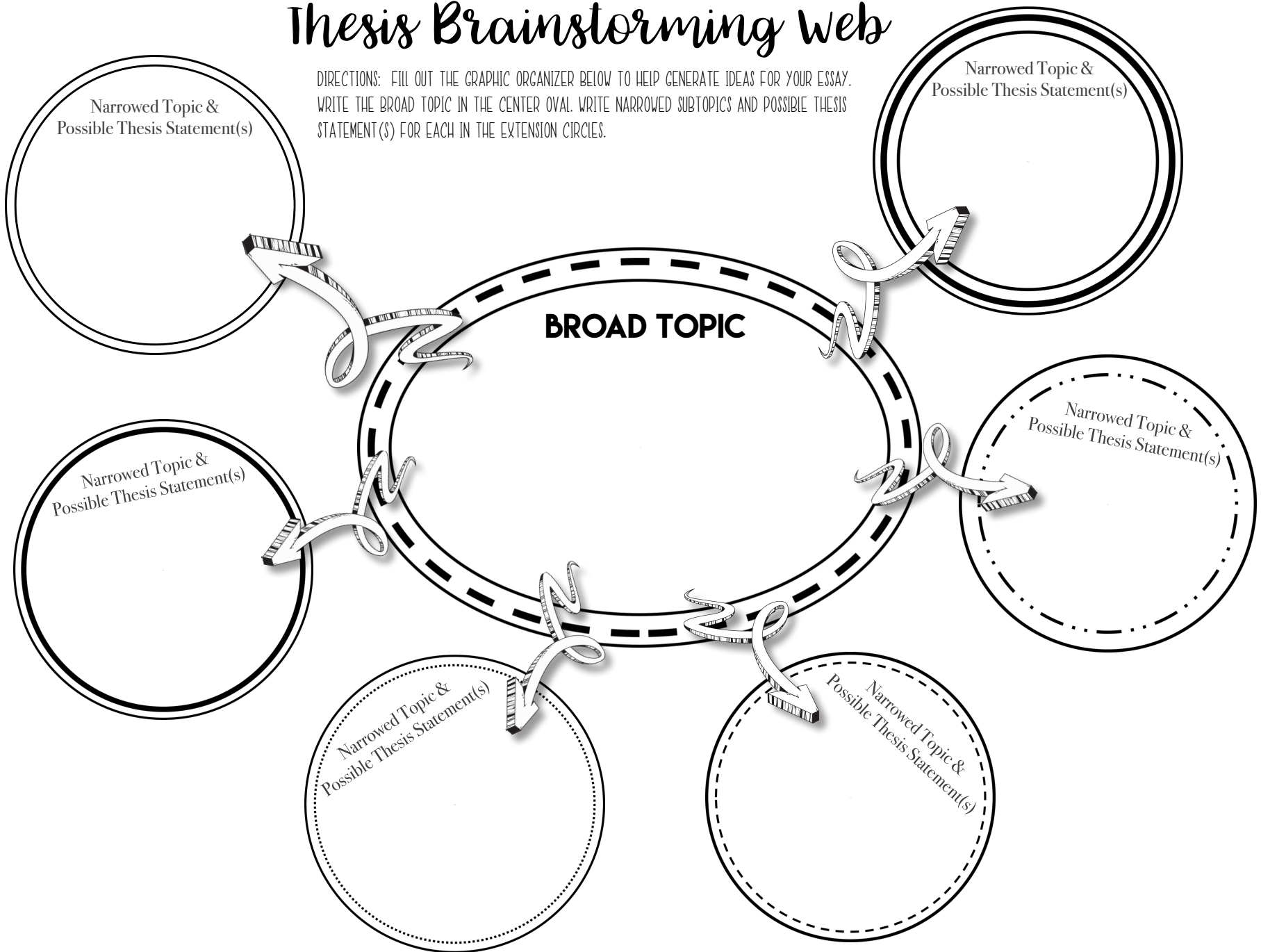
Support:

Restated & Reworded Thesis Statement:

**CONCLUSION**

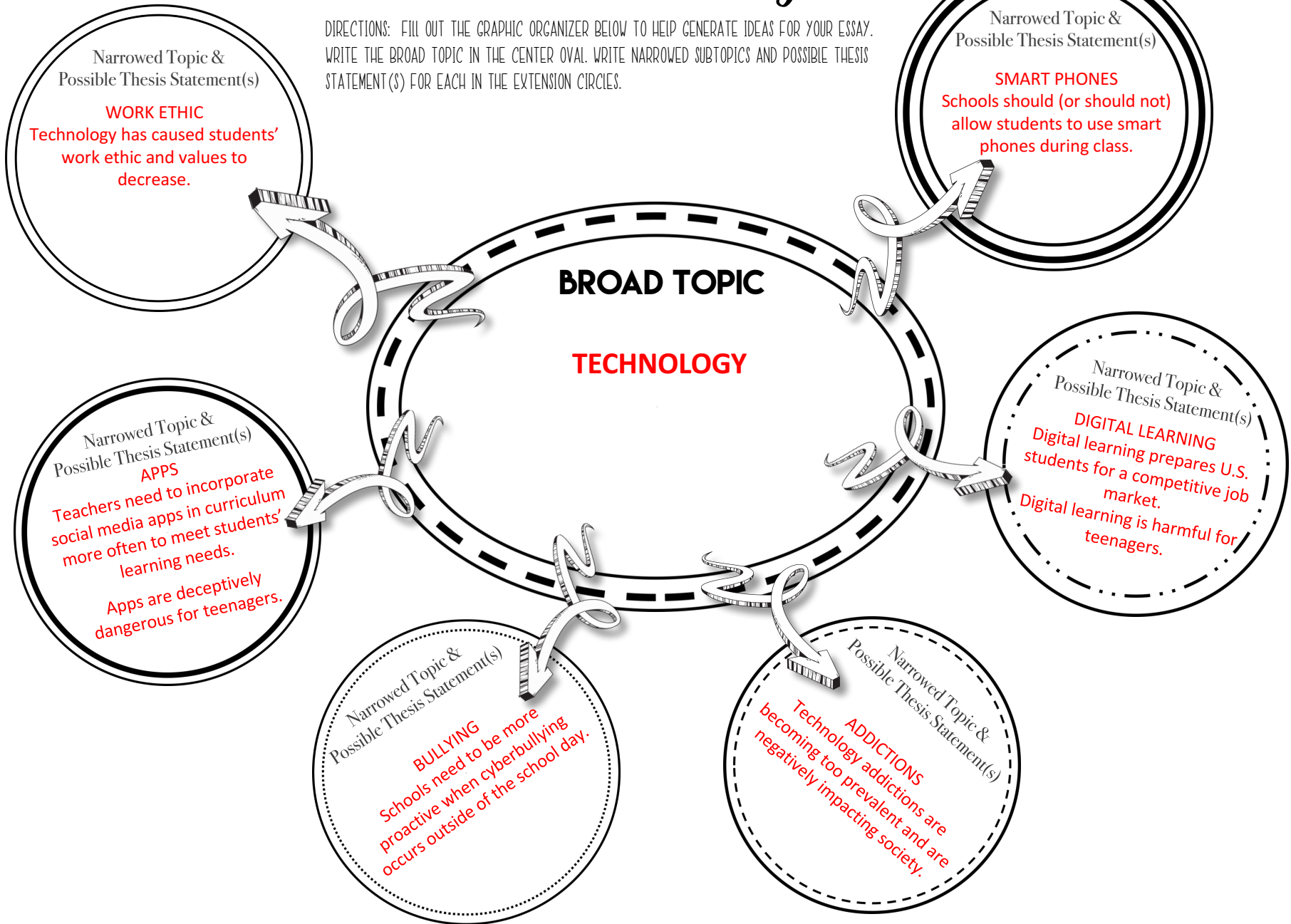
# Thesis Brainstorming Web

DIRECTIONS: FILL OUT THE GRAPHIC ORGANIZER BELOW TO HELP GENERATE IDEAS FOR YOUR ESSAY. WRITE THE BROAD TOPIC IN THE CENTER OVAL. WRITE NARROWED SUBTOPICS AND POSSIBLE THESIS STATEMENT(S) FOR EACH IN THE EXTENSION CIRCLES.



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