**Paragraph Writing Exemplars**

**Example Thesis Statements**

**A thesis statement is an argument – it tells the reader what you intend to prove in your paragraph/essay. It needs to answer the questions “so what?” Meaning, why is this important? It also needs to be specific.**

**Look at the examples below. Which of the examples provides a specific argument about rebellion?**

1. I think rebellion is just if the cause is reasonable.
2. Rebellion can be good and bad in some cases.
3. For most circumstances rebellion is highly justifiable.
4. Rebellion is justifiable except when it is done with violence.
5. Rebellions are justifiable because if we did not rebel nothing would change.
6. Rebellions are not justifiable; they cause too much physical and emotional damage for it to be a good thing.
7. A rebellion can be justifiable, but only if it is lead and directed by the citizens of the country or state of rebellion.

**Example ACE Statements**

**Assertion – your point**

**Citation – your evidence or proof**

**Explanation – explaining how your evidence supports your point and links to your thesis**

**Look at the following examples. Which properly follow the ACE format?**

A: When countries begin to enter poverty, people begin to get very restless and uneasy.

C: Living conditions start to deteriorate, food is hard to find and basic necessities begin to be hard to come by.

E: A good example of these factors in Burkina Faso.

A: In the past violent rebelling has not worked in the rebellions favour.

C: In Upper and Lower Canada when the citizens were un-happy with how their government was being run, they rebelled against the government and started a civil war.

E: The citizens ended up losing the civil war and the government did not make the changes the citizens were asking for.

A: Plus, the people rebelling are likely to be targeted by bombings and attacked, endangering families.

C: In Afghanistan, the Al Qaeda militants plant car bombs in the cars of their enemies in an attempt to kill them, not caring if anyone else is around or in the car.

E: The threat to the innocent in a rebellion is too high for a rebellion to be worthwhile.

A: Rebellions, in history, have proven to be one of the main driving forces for change in society, and often are one of the only ways to allow people to change their own lives, and society, for the better.

C: The rebellions in Upper Canada were fought for the purpose of giving more rights to the people of Canada. A similar case was the earlier French Revolution. These rebellion’s goals were democratic.

E: The changes that these rebellions brought, even if the rebellion was unsuccessful, were the catalyst for greater change and progression of human society. They led to larger events and greater change. If these rebellions did not occur, progress could not be made effectively.