

Thesis Statement Examples

Example #1 (112 words)

During WWI, W.H.R. Rivers served in the British Expeditionary Force as a General, where he observed the symptoms of stricken soldiers. As an accomplished psychiatrist, Rivers concluded that the symptoms displayed were psychological in nature. Based on his observations, Rivers developed a treatment method which implemented Psychotherapy to treat Shell Shock. His method offered a balance between facing one's fears and repressing traumatic experiences which focused on healing the soldiers' minds. Rivers' new treatment was not widely accepted at first. It took years until his ideas took root and changed the way doctors and the public understood shell shock. Rivers' innovative use of psychotherapy allowed soldiers to lead a normal post-war life.

Example #2 (100 words)

Until the 1960s, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Americans were discriminated against by society and through legislation limiting their rights. On the night of June 28, 1969, police raided the Stonewall Inn, a popular gay bar in Greenwich Village, and arrested three drag queens with excessive force. Outraged, patrons and spectators fought back, with rioting lasting into the early morning. The Stonewall Riots became a turning point for gay rights, fostering identity and community, which led to a unified gay rights movement. Increased gay activism laid groundwork for later passage of laws to prevent discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Example #3 (140 words)

Before chemotherapy was invented, physicians had very few options to offer their patients when it came to fighting cancer. In the early 1900s, the only cancer treatments were radiation and surgery. Radiation could cause more damage to healthy cells than unhealthy cells, and surgery could remove the main cancer site but did not always prevent the cancer from returning. In the mid-20th century, scientists Louis Goodman and Alfred Gilman were researching mustard gas, a lethal warfare weapon, and discovered that by changing the atoms in the gas it was possible to shrink and possibly eliminate tumors. This was the beginning of chemotherapy research and a turning point in the evolution of cancer treatments. Today, chemotherapy research continues in hopes of eradicating cancer and many other illnesses such as bone marrow diseases, lupus, and rheumatoid arthritis using similar treatments and techniques.

Example #4 (90 words)

By 1918, after nearly 100 years of debate over alcohol abuse and consumption, Congress passed the 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Though the "Prohibition Amendment" and Volstead Act of 1919 succeeded in banning the import, export, transport and sale of alcohol in the U.S., they failed as permanent changes because the Amendment was ultimately repealed in 1933. Nevertheless, the consequences of the experiment were significant; organized crime increased greatly over that time and the dispute over government's reach into citizens' private lives grew and continues even to this day.

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Background Information

Main Event

Long-term Results, Impact, or Legacy

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Main Event

Today, chemotherapy research continues in hopes of eradicating cancer and many other illnesses such as bone marrow diseases, lupus, and rheumatoid arthritis using similar treatments and techniques.

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