**Template #1:** A graphic organizer that will help you develop your thesis statement (topic, controlling idea, and sub-topics).

**Template #2:** The supporting details organizer will help you generate enough details and information to write a paragraph on each sub-topic.

*Note:* Use these templates with the article on “Helping Your Child Write an Essay: Organizing and Brainstorming.” ([Click here to print.](http://www.landmarkoutreach.org/))
Essay Template #1:  
The Thesis Statement  
Janet Parady, M.S.Ed.

**Topic:**  
What is the essay about? 

**Controlling Idea:**  
What are you saying about your topic? 

**Sub-topics (Supports):**  
How do you plan to support your topic? 

Janet M. Parady, M.S.Ed. is head of the high school Language Arts Department at Landmark School (http://www.landmarkoutreach.org/) in Prides Crossing, Massachusetts and co-author of *The Trickster in Africa and African-American Folktales*.

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You will need at least three supporting details for each sub-topic.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support #1</th>
<th>Support #2</th>
<th>Support #3</th>
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