I Search: Thesis and Topic Sentence Worksheet

*A **thesis statement** is the most important sentence of your entire paper. A thesis statement is a sentence that will be argued or explained throughout your I Search. Make sure your thesis sentence is broad and not too specific. All of your information in your report will help argue your thesis statement. Remember, a thesis is a topic plus an opinion.

Example: *Chocolate is both delicious and fascinating; it has a complex history of how it became one of our favorite treats*.

Topic: Chocolate
Opinion: delicious and fascinating, a favorite treat

*A thesis is a great place to use a semicolon. You can add more information without adding a second sentence. Remember, there must be a complete thought (subject & predicate) on either side of the semicolon for it to be used correctly.

My thesis:
_____
_____
_____
_____

*A **topic sentence** is the most important sentence of a paragraph. It guides what the paragraph will be about. You will have a topic sentence for each of your body paragraphs. A topic sentence is also a topic plus an opinion. It is like a thesis, but not as big. For each body paragraph, start the paragraph with a topic sentence. After you have written your topic sentence, you will write all of the information about that topic. To conclude your body paragraphs, state your topic sentence again but in a new way (use synonyms). To decide upon the topic for your topic sentence, all you need to do is look at your Cornell notes. Each subheading will be a topic; you just need to add an opinion.

Example:
The history of chocolate goes back farther than many people realize.

*Turn your 6 topics from your Cornell notes into topic sentences. This will really help you when you start to write your rough draft.

My topic sentences:
1. _____
    _____
2. _____
    _____
3. _____
    _____
4. _____
    _____
5. _____
    _____
6. _____
    _____