

## CIRCLE DIAGRAM INSTRUCTIONS FOR PROJECT 1

This is the outline for your letter to the editor in graphic organizer form. It is simply meant to help you to organize your letter by giving you an opportunity to get the main ideas on paper. You will use it to write your letter later.

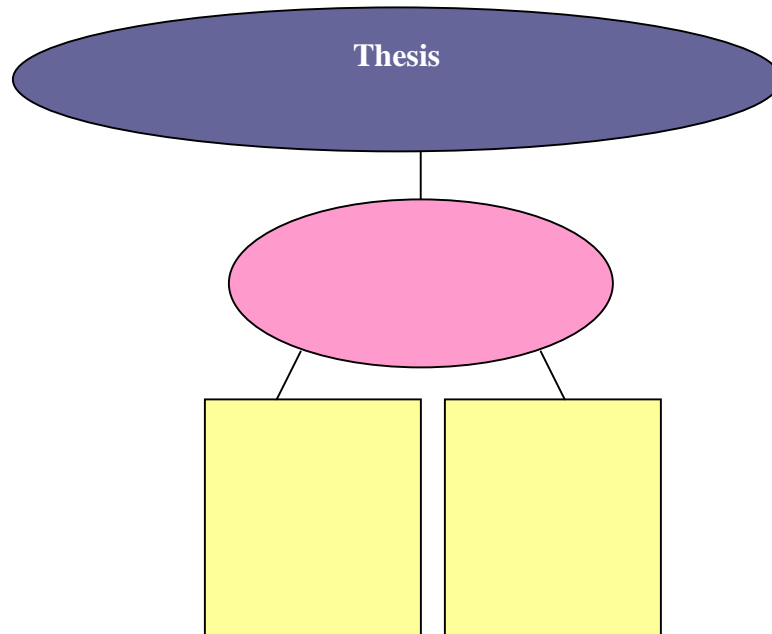
1. **How to fill in the FIRST CIRCLE.** Decide what your opinion about a particular issue is. That opinion should be a SIMPLE, CONCISE sentence that can be supported with evidence. No details should be included, but the opinion should still be particular to the subject you are studying. A good opinion: “It is a smart decision for colleges to look up their new students to check their background.” A bad answer: “I don’t like security regulations.”

**Put your opinion or judgment in the top circle. This is your THESIS STATEMENT.**

2. **How to fill in the SECOND CIRCLE.** The second circle is the reason you believe your opinion is true. You must have a complex, well-thought out reason that directly supports your thesis statement. An example that supports the first thesis statement above may be:

“For all those who go to college and don’t know nearly half the students, they would feel safer knowing that one of their classmates or other person who goes to that college isn’t a terrorist.”

3. **How to fill in the BOXES.** The boxes contain the evidence that supports your reason. This evidence can be taken from personal experience or from research you have done (an article you have read in the newspaper, for example.) This should be easy, since you must have had some evidence on which to base your opinion already. If you are basing your opinion on something you read, and want to quote the source, write in the quote and make sure to note where you found it. Remember: the quote should be short! A good quote is usually one or two sentences/ideas at the most. If you are using personal experience as your evidence, keep your statements short as well. You must have at least two pieces of evidence for your reason.



**Now you are ready to write your letter!**