

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## OUTLINES AND THESIS STATEMENTS

### Evaluating Sample Approaches to a Topic

**Directions** In preparing your research paper, you should decide which approach you want to take toward your topic. Your approach will determine what information you want to emphasize in your paper. Here are some common approaches to expository writing.

- Explain how something works, using a step-by-step process
- Compare and contrast people, places, events, or ideas
- Define something
- Classify by dividing things with common characteristics into groups
- Point out a cause-and-effect relationship

**Directions** Different approaches work with different topics. For example, you may have a topic that can be explained better through the use of comparison and contrast rather than cause and effect. Below are several topics and related research notes. Which approach from the list above seems best suited to each topic? Explain why.

- 1. Topic** Wildlife Refuges of the United States. **Notes:** San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge: Urban refuge. Located around the edges of San Francisco Bay. Wetlands area. Endangered species include the salt marsh harvest mouse and a marsh bird called a rail. Area receives many visitors each year. Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge: Located in Oklahoma. Set aside as a home for buffalo.

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- 2. Topic** Komodo Island Dragon. **Notes:** 300-pound lizard. Lives in Indonesia. Dangerous to humans. Believed to live 100 years. Protected from hunters.

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- 3. Topic** California Condor. **Notes:** Fewer than 50 condors remain. Females lay only one egg every other year, and nesting adults are easily disturbed, which results in eggs failing to hatch. Condors need large areas of wilderness to live in and wild animals to feed from.

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