

# Occasion / Position Statements Smartsheet

An **Occasion/Position Statement** is a complex (two-part) sentence that begins with one of these words or phrases:

After	Before	In order to	Whenever
Although	Even	Since	Where
As	Even if	So that	Wherever
As if	Even though	Though	Whether
As long as	If	Unless	While
As soon as	In order	Until	
Because	That	When	

The occasion:

- ✓ Is the first part of the topic sentence
- ✓ Introduces your reason for writing
- ✓ Can be any event, problem, idea, solution, or circumstance that gives you a reason to write
- ✓ Is the dependent clause in the complex sentence

The position:

- ✓ Is the second part of the topic sentence
- ✓ States what you plan to prove or explain in your following paragraph(s)
- ✓ Is the independent clause in the complex sentence

**Examples** (The plain text indicates the occasion; the italics indicate the position.)

1. Although my family and I have taken many wonderful vacations, *none was more fun and exciting than our camping trip to the Grand Canyon.*
2. Even though bike helmets are sometimes unfashionable and uncomfortable, *all cyclists should wear them.*
3. Before you make the decision to light up a cigarette, *consider the problems caused by smoking.*
4. If students use chemicals to do science experiments, *it is important that they learn the proper way to dispose of them.*
5. If you are ever fortunate enough to capture an anole, *William White's book, "The American Chameleon," offers important rules for keeping your new pet healthy and happy.*

Sample Occasion-Position-Projected-Plan 'Statements'

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Although Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton both thought their beliefs of how government should work were right, the only way America survived was through a compromise between them. Jefferson and Hamilton's differing views on the strength of a central government, the size of a peacetime army, and the interpretation of the Constitution led to a hybrid agreement that has allowed the nation to thrive.

Excellent position

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October 4, 2010

**Question:** Between Alexander Hamilton or Thomas Jefferson, who do you believe was more influential in the growth and running of the United States government?

Even though Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson were both instrumental in developing and running the United States government, Hamilton's guidance was superior. Through his ideas of a strong central government, ingenious financial programs, and a large peacetime army, Alexander Hamilton guaranteed America's continued growth and power.

Excellent opener.