Basic Skills Thesis, Supporting Statements Exercise

For each of the following subjects, write a clear response that could be developed into a thesis statement if you were to write an essay on that subject. In addition, formulate three supporting statements that could serve as topic sentences for paragraphs with which you would offer evidence to back up your thesis statement. Approach each topic as if you were addressing a group of well-educated adults.

1. Should college athletes have a special grading system?

2. We should stop space exploration and use the money at home.

3. Religious displays should/should not be permitted on public property.

4. Allow/ don’t allow tax credits for families that send their children to parochial schools.
Look back at one of your answers in the preceding questions and choose one topic to develop further. Condense your response opinion and three supporting statements into one polished thesis statement. Additionally, take your three original supporting statements and develop three more supporting examples, details, etc. that reinforce the point you make in the original supporting statement.

Thesis:

Supporting Statement 1:

A. Supporting evidence:

B. Supporting evidence:

C. Supporting evidence:

Supporting Statement 2:

A. Supporting evidence:

B. Supporting evidence:

C. Supporting evidence:

Supporting Statement 3:

A. Supporting evidence:

B. Supporting evidence:

C. Supporting evidence:
Lastly, think about the flip-side of your argument. Are there any advantages to the position that opposes yours? Acknowledging strong points that oppose your argument is a writing strategy called “concession” and is very effective in essay writing, provided of course that you show how the points you make in your argument still outweigh the opposing or diverging views you have chosen to “concede.” In the space below, make a list of strong points that advance an argument that opposes your own.

Once you are through with your list, craft a paragraph in which you concede a couple of points in the argument that opposes your own and then show that while these points are valid and strong, the evidence you have advanced in your argument is, nevertheless, superior.