

## THESIS STATEMENTS

A thesis statement represents the writer's overall argument for the paper, which will be supported and developed in each body paragraph. A strong or weak thesis can influence how effectively the writer states their claim and defends it as well as how well the reader understands and follows this argument.

<p><b>MAKE IT ARGUABLE</b></p>	<p>Think of potential counter-arguments. If you can find several that seem plausible, then your thesis statement is probably an argument, not a simple statement. Try to make your thesis statement thought provoking. While you should not try to offend readers, make your argument memorable.</p>
<p><b>DESCRIBE THE TOPIC</b></p>	<p>What topic and which points will be focused on throughout the paper?</p>
<p><b>SUPPORT IT WITH CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION</b></p>	<p>Introduce and discuss relevant information about the topic and “build up” to the argument. This allows you make a clear and concise thesis statement before going forward to elaborate with a larger, organized discussion of the topic.</p>
<p><b>MAKE YOUR STANCE CLEAR</b></p>	<p>Ensure that your reader understands your stance on the topic from the very beginning, so they will understand how each paragraph contributes to your overall argument. When you can use first person, verbs like: argue, contend, or claim act as “signal words” for the reader and make direct statements about your position on an argument (e.g., “I contend that…”).</p>
<p><b>BE CLEAR</b></p>	<p>Remove your thesis from your paper and read it separately. Can you clearly understand specifically what you aim to argue? Avoid ambiguous or vague language. Strive for clarity and specificity.</p>
<p><b>SAY IT IN ONE SENTENCE WITHIN YOUR INTRODUCTION</b></p>	<p>If you cannot write the thesis in one sentence, try to hone in on your claim. This is a good exercise because it forces you to better understand your own argument.</p>
<p><b>BE COMPLEX</b></p>	<p>If you only have one or two points to make in regard to your thesis, can you add details or examples to emphasize them in support of your argument?</p>

<p>USE TOPIC SENTENCES TO RELATE BACK TO YOUR THESIS</p>	<p>A thesis statement is not a stand-alone sentence; it sets up the argument that will be developed in each body paragraph/section. Once you have written your thesis statement, make sure that each paragraph's main point clearly supports the thesis or each supporting section advances the thesis in some way.</p>
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