

THESIS STATEMENT

Definition: A thesis statement is a sentence in an essay, report, research paper, or speech that identifies the main idea and/or central purpose of the text.

Things to consider:

- What kind of thesis statement should be in the paper you are writing? `
- An **Analytical Paper** breaks an issue or an idea into its various components, evaluates the issue or idea, and presents this breakdown and evaluation to the audience.
 - **Example:** “Bolt employs with the intention to sway the reader while clearly revealing his prominent stance on the fight for freedom as he puts it.”
- An **Expository (explanatory) paper** explains something to the audience.
 - **Example:** “The death of a loved one can be very painful, partly because of the sense of loss, but also because someone else’s mortality reminds us all too vividly of our own.”
- An **Argumentative Paper** makes a claim about a topic and justifies this claim with specific evidence. The claim could be an opinion, a policy, proposal, an evaluation, a cause-and-effect statement, or an interpretation. The goal of the argumentative paper is to convince the audience that the claim is true based on the evidence provided.
 - **Example:** “When obsessive parents and coaches impose adult standards on children’s sports, the result can be activities that are neither satisfying nor beneficial to children.”

*When writing a paper that does not fall within these three categories (ex. a narrative essay), well formulated thesis statement somewhere in the first paragraph could still be helpful to the reader, as it can summarize and neatly present the main theme you want the reader to perceive.

| DO’S | DON’TS |
|--|---|
| Narrow down the subject to a single, central idea that your essay will support. | Focus solely on your title or subject. <i>Meaning your thesis statement should not simply be the topic to be addressed</i> |
| State your position or the point you are arguing. Avoid a summary of information. | Ask a question. <i>Your thesis statement should not be in the form of a question, rather it is the answer to a question.</i> |
| Write in third person. <i>Avoid using “I” in your thesis statement. Make firm, believable statements rather than “I think” or “I believe”.</i> | Make an announcement. <i>(Ex. In this essay I will talk about...) Announcements are not effective statements of significance and provide little insight into the topic.</i> |
| Revise your thesis statement as necessary. <i>Make sure your thesis statement is accurate to the rest of your essay.</i> | State a fact. <i>Your thesis statement should be the one that explains why your fact(s) are relevant.</i> |

Set the boundaries of your essay. *Be sure your thesis statement allows you to discuss a topic without being too broad or lengthy.*

Quote or reference secondary material. *Your thesis statement should be composed of your personal insight*