

Easy Steps to a Great Thesis

A Thesis Statement can be:

1. The _____ to a question that you have posed
2. The _____ for a problem you have identified
3. A _____ that takes a position on a debatable topic

General Tips about Thesis Statements:

- A statement that contains the essay's _____ and _____.
- Gives the reader a sense of _____.
- Usually comes at the _____ of the introduction
- Most thesis statements are _____ sentence, but it must be a complete sentence
- **Everything** in the essay must support the _____.

Introduction paragraph should follow this format:

1. Attention getter (commonly known as a “hook”)
2. Introduce the topic
3. State the thesis

What are the Roles of a Thesis?

1. It can assert an _____, explain a topic, and/or _____ an issue.
2. It is _____ in presenting the writer's _____.
3. It _____ both scope and topic of the paper.
4. It captures the reader's interest and _____ that interest on the _____.

Statements: The List (Essay Map)

- Contains essay's _____, point, and _____ supporting reasons.
- Example: 1- highlight/underline the essay's topic.
2- highlight in a different color or circle the essay's supporting reasons
“To reduce the number of highway fatalities [topic and point], our country needs [purpose=persuasive] to enforce the national law that designates twenty-one as the legal minimum age to drink, set up checkpoints on major holidays, and take away licenses from convicted drunk drivers [three reasons].”

A Persuasive Thesis Statement:

- An persuasive paper makes a _____ based on opinion, evaluation, or interpretation about a topic and _____ this claim with specific _____.
- **Persuasive thesis example:** 1- highlight/underline the essay's topic.
2- highlight in a different color or circle the essay's supporting reasons
“High school graduates should be required to take a year off to pursue community service projects before entering college in order to increase their maturity and global awareness. “

Thesis Don'ts:

- _____ **your thesis:** “In this essay, I am going to tell you about Mt. SAC college and why you should go there.” (Side note: Some instructors may encourage this type of statement, and always do what your instructor suggests)
- _____ **your reader:** Just make sure that the topic and point are clear.
- **Cannot be a _____:** Doesn't allow you to prove anything because it's already factual.

- **Don't be** _____: Words like “good,” “bad,” “right,” and “wrong,” don't convey specific meaning.
- **Cannot be a** _____: “Don't you think animal testing is inhumane?”

Creating a Thesis Statement:

step 1. Determine essay's _____ (what you're talking about)
 Example: Pixar's film *Up*

step 2. Determine what kind of paper you are writing and what kind of thesis statement you need to use: analytical, **persuasive**, or expository.
 Example: Persuasive=It's not really a “kid” movie.

step 3. Put it all together!
 Example: Pixar's most recent film, *Up*, should not be considered a “kid” movie because its characters, conflicts, and the main theme of loss are too complex for children to understand.

Activity: Create Thesis Statements

Based on the topic below, create a list thesis statement.

Make sure to include the topic, point, and possibly reason(s) in each of the statements.

Topic: Being a successful CBA student (Be prepared to share!)
