

How to Write Thesis Statements

What is a Thesis Statement?

A thesis statement is a statement that discloses the main ideas of your work. It is a roadmap to tell the reader how you will be organizing the subject matter of your writing to support your idea. In short, it tells the readers what you are writing about.

How do you go about writing a Thesis Statement?

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/545/01/>

1. Determine what kind of paper you are writing:

- An **analytical** paper breaks down an issue or an idea into its component parts, evaluates the issue or idea, and presents this breakdown and evaluation to the audience.
- An **expository** (explanatory) paper explains something to the audience.
- 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.

2. Your thesis statement should be specific—it should cover only what you will discuss in your paper and should be supported with specific evidence.

3. The thesis statement usually appears at the end of the first paragraph of a paper.

4. **Your topic may change as you write, so you may need to revise your thesis statement to reflect exactly what you have discussed in the paper.**

Thesis Examples

Analytical: An analysis of the college admission process reveals one challenge facing counselors: accepting students with high test scores or students with strong extracurricular backgrounds.

Expository: The life of the typical college student is characterized by time spent studying, attending class, and socializing with peers

Argumentative: 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.