

## Writing a Strong Thesis Statement

Any paper you write in college will require a thesis statement in some form. These are general expectations and guidelines for writing and revising a strong thesis.

### What is a Thesis Statement?

The thesis statement is the most essential part of academic writing. It is a sentence or sentences that contain(s) the results of your research or your main topic or argument in condensed form at the end of your introduction.

### Roles of a Thesis

Your thesis statement should do the following:

1. Clearly state the topic you are writing about
2. Make an argument or explain the main idea about your topic
3. (Optionally) Present a road map for the rest of your paper

### Keys of a Successful Thesis

1. Interests the reader
2. Organizes the information you will present
3. Presents the type of information the reader will get

### Tips

- Overly broad thesis statements can lead to your paper containing too much information and getting off track fast. Example: "Whales need to be saved."
- A thesis that simply states facts will make it difficult for the reader to understand the overall point or argument of your paper. Example: "Savanna elephant populations declined by 30 percent between 2007 and 2014."

### Things to Think About Before You Write Your Thesis Statement

1. What is your topic?

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2. What is/are your main arguments or ideas on the topic?

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Now it's your turn! Create your thesis in the box below.

### Thesis Checklist

Does your thesis statement meet the following standards?

- Is it arguable?
- Does it state an opinion or provide the main points on my topic?
- Does it state my topic?
- Does it let readers know the main elements of the essay?
- Is it specific enough that your writing will meet the length requirements of your assignment without being too broad or narrow?

Now review your thesis in the box below to make any improvements needed.

Check it again!

- Is it interesting?
- Is it clear?
- Is it organized in the same order as your body paragraphs?
- Does it tell the reader what information to expect?



Congratulations! You're off to a great start!