

Thesis Statements

What is a Thesis Statement?

A thesis is a sentence, placed near the beginning of a paper, which tells one's opinion on the topic. It must be an arguable claim, meaning the author takes a position that opens up the topic for discussion. The thesis statement must be formulated as a discussion (argument) starter.

Why Do I Need a Thesis Statement?

A thesis statement lets the reader know the paper's position, or stand, on the topic. A thesis gives the paper direction. A thesis also lets the reader know what one is trying to prove or give evidence for in the paper.

When Do I Need a Thesis Statement?

A thesis statement should be used anytime one is writing a paper that requires a position to be taken or opinion to be given. Generally, the only time one will not need a thesis is in a personal testimony paper, but even then, using a thesis is helpful.

The thesis is the center of one's paper. Every argument, claim, and point in a paper backs up the thesis statement.

Ask these questions:

"Does this back up my thesis?
Did I tie this back to my thesis?"
If a point does not relate to the thesis, the point might be weak.
Restart the thesis process to strengthen the statement!

How Do I Make a Thesis Statement?

1. First, pick a topic and develop two distinct sides.

For example: Topic: Going to the zoo. Sides:
Going to the zoo is important vs. Going to the zoo is pointless.

3. Now, give the general reason that supports this side.

For example: Going to the zoo is important because it develops critical thinking skills.

2. Write the side of the argument that this paper will support.

For example: Going to the zoo is important.

4. Take the general concept and narrow it.

For example: Going to the zoo is important during children's early development because it develops critical thinking skills.

