



# **THESIS STATEMENT**

# What is a Thesis Statement For ?

If an assignment asks you to :

- analyze,
- argue,
- compare and contrast,
- establish a cause
- Interpret

You will then base the assignment around a clearly defined thesis statement.

You will refer to the thesis statement throughout the assignment.

# What is a Thesis Statement ?

- tells the reader how you will interpret the significance of the subject matter under discussion.
- is a road map for the paper; in other words, it tells the reader what to expect from the rest of the paper.
- A thesis is an interpretation of a question or subject, not the subject itself. The subject, or topic, of an essay might be global warming - a thesis must then offer a way to understand global warming
- makes a claim that others might dispute.
- is usually a single sentence near the beginning of your paper (most often, at the end of the first paragraph) that presents your argument to the reader. The rest of the paper, the body of the essay, gathers and organizes evidence that will persuade the reader of the logic of your interpretation.

# The Four Keys to Writing a Good Thesis Statement

- 1. Assertive:** Your thesis statement must **state exactly what you intend to prove** with the paper. While your conclusions can be cautious, your thesis statement should preferably be strong.
- 2. Singular:** The thesis statement, in most cases, should **contain only one clear idea**, keeping the paper focused.
- 3. Specific:** The thesis statement **should be as specific as possible**, whilst making your stance clear. One sentence is enough for shorter papers.
- 4. Well-positioned:** It should **be included in the introduction**, in most cases **at the very end**

# 1. Assertive

## ***Tell the Reader What You Intend to Prove or Discuss***

Knowing what you are trying to achieve, in a paper or essay, can be difficult.

Writing the actual thesis statement can be one of the most daunting aspects of the essay.

You are trying to inform the reader of exactly what you are proposing, so they are clear on this from the beginning.

Importantly, a thesis is not the subject of the paper but an interpretation or point of view within that subject. It is a specific claim you are making and will be using the rest of the paper to argue.

For example, you may be writing a paper about the effects of global warming -That is the subject of the paper.

The thesis would:

- set out what you believe or are suggesting.
- you may decide to argue the case that you believe that global warming is very harmful to the environment. You could equally argue that they have no effect.
- In either case, assertiveness here means that your thesis takes a definite position or a stance on a particular topic and sets out to support that claim.

## 2. Singular

### One Paper = One Concept

- With more complex subjects, it's tempting to make the scope of your paper as large as possible.
- Resist writing a paper that combines too many loosely related concepts instead of selecting just a single thread to explore thoroughly.
- For most papers, you want to discuss one concept and elaborate on that, otherwise the paper quickly loses focus. Too many smaller theses will likely end up confusing the reader or weakening the overall effect.

## 3. Specific

### Drawing Things Together

- Your thesis statement should draw together all the background contained in your introduction and turn it into a single, powerful statement.
- Think of your introduction like a space shuttle – only components that are absolutely necessary to performance be included in the design. Ask yourself if each element of your introduction is helping to launch your final thesis statement or whether it's merely extra information.
- Your thesis is not a short rerun of the [introduction](#), but a specific position that you've arrived at given all the information you lay out in your introduction.
- After reading this focused thesis statement, it should be clear to the reader exactly where you're intending to steer the rest of the paper

## 4. Position

### Where Does the Thesis Statement Belong?

- A thesis statement should be **in the introduction** of the paper, taking up a sentence or so.
- the thesis statement is like a mini conclusion to the introduction, which serves as a mini-argument in itself.
- In the conclusion you must refer to your thesis statement
- This is a general rule, but some lecturers or supervisors may have specific requirements



# The Thesis Statement is Changeable

- For an essay, you will need to establish [your aim](#), and the overall direction of the paper.
- You do not need to do your Thesis Statement first.
- [Read some background information](#) and [skim through the sources before writing](#) a thesis statement.
- This will become your 'working' thesis - it can change and adapt as you write and modify the paper.
- [A thesis statement can be modified and refined](#) as you develop the essay. As you uncover more information, you may change your view slightly.
- In an argumentative essay, for example, where you have to try to rebut arguments, the writer may convince themselves that the opposite is true, and completely change the thesis. This is not a problem and is in fact all part of the [scientific process](#).
- Once you have [written your essay](#), and are ready to proof-read, it is important to check your work and ensure that it actually addresses the thesis. [Every single paragraph should be related to this initial statement in some way](#), or it risks drifting off into irrelevance.

It's important to stay focused!

Don't try to argue an overly broad topic in your essay, or you're going to feel confused and unsure about your direction and purpose.



**Don't write** "Eating fast food is bad and should be avoided."

This statement is too general and would be nearly impossible for you to defend.

It leaves a lot of big questions to answer. Is all fast food bad? Why is it bad? Who should avoid it? Why should anyone care?



**Do write:**



"Australians should eliminate the regular consumption of fast food because a fast food diet leads to preventable and expensive health issues, such as diabetes, obesity, and heart disease."

In this example, the argument is narrowed to the health consequences related to a diet of fast food.

The focus is on Australians rather than everyone in the universe.

Example Question.

What makes wind turbines efficient and why would it be a preferred energy source ?

Thesis statement in introduction :

Harvesting the power of the wind can be a clean, renewable, and natural way to provide energy to the world. With the many recent advances in technology wind power can be a cheap as well as an environmentally friendly alternative to fossil fuels.