

The Amazing Thesis Statement!

A thesis statement is one declarative sentence that clearly and concisely expresses the main ideas of your paper.

Every thesis should:

- **Include each main point of each body paragraph in your essay**



Your thesis should act like a map that gives direction to your paper. Readers should be able to look at your thesis and know what you will be talking about and where.

- **Argue a position and completely answer the questions posed by your paper**
- **Be supported by several solid arguments throughout the paper**

Ask yourself "how" and "why" questions to deepen the ideas you include in your thesis and to provide spaces for yourself to fill with supporting ideas.



- **Be easily identifiable, preferably by being the last sentence in your introduction**
- **Be very specific, in your own words, and straight to the point**

The Three Different Types of Thesis Statements:

- **Expository theses explain one large idea to the reader.**
 - Example: The life of the typical college student is characterized by time spent studying, attending class, and socializing with peers.
[Three main points stated clearly]
- **Argumentative theses make a claim about a topic and justify that claim with specific evidences and examples.**
 - Example: 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.
- **Analytical theses break down, evaluate, and present an issue in more detailed ideas by answering a WHY or HOW question.**
 - Example: An analysis of the red-tailed hawk reveals two kinds of flight patterns: patterns related to hunting prey and patterns related to courtship.