

Thesis Statements

Overview

A thesis statement is a sentence, found in the introductory paragraphs, of what your entire paper will be about. It serves as a summary of the argument you will be making throughout the rest of the paper.

Summary

Key Points About Thesis Statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● A thesis statement serves as a "road map" for the rest of the paper. It lets the reader know what to expect.● It presents your main argument or claim. The rest of the paper presents evidence that supports your statement.● It must be specific and only address what you will discuss in your paper.● Strong thesis statements often present the reader with a new, surprising, unexpected, or challenging view of your topic.● It should appear towards the end of your introductory paragraphs.
How to Create a Thesis Statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Start with a question: Once you have decided on your essay topic, work out what you want to say about it.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Ex: Has social media had more of a positive or negative effect on society?● Write your initial answer: After doing some initial research, you can write out a simple, tentative answer.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Ex: Social media has had more of a negative effect on society.● Develop your answer: Consider why this is your answer and how you will convince your reader to agree with you. As you conduct more research about your topic and begin crafting your essay, your answer will become more detailed.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Ex: Social media has had a negative effect on society because it can poorly impact users' mental health, enables cyber-bullying, and allows for false information to be spread.● Refine your thesis: A strong thesis statement tells the reader why you hold this position, what they'll learn from the essay, and the key points of your argument. It should summarize your overall argument.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Ex: While social media is often lauded for allowing friends and family to communicate with each other across the globe, the negative effects often outweigh the positive. Social media negatively effects society because it can lead to poor mental health, enables cyber-bullying, and allows for the dissemination of false information.
How do I know if my thesis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Did you answer your initial question? If not, you need to adjust the focus of your thesis or essay.● Did I take a position that my readers can challenge or oppose? If your thesis is simply stating facts that cannot be opposed, you are providing a summary, not an argument.● Is it specific enough? Thesis statements that are too vague or broad can be difficult to support or be overwhelming for the writer.

statement is strong?

- **Does my essay support my thesis without wandering?** If your thesis and the body of your essay do not seem to connect, one of them needs to be changed. It is okay if you need to adjust your thesis to better reflect what you have learned through the course of your research and writing. Also make sure that your essay addresses all of the key points given in your thesis statement, without going off on tangents or adding new or unnecessary information.

Relevant Resources

McCombs, Shona. "How to Write a Thesis Statement: Four Steps & Examples." *Scribbr*, scribbr.com/academic-essays/thesis-statement/

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. "Thesis Statements." *The Writing Center*, writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/thesis statements/