



What is a thesis statement?

A thesis statement is a roadmap that guides the reader through your paper. It is usually the last sentence of the introductory paragraph.

The thesis statement should:

1. Express the main idea of the paper (cover the *topic*)
2. Present an argument (have an *opinion*)
3. Guides the reader to your conclusion
4. Fit the scope of the assignment (are you writing a paper or a book?)

How do I know I have a good thesis statement?

- Double check your body paragraphs against what you wrote in your thesis. Did you guide the reader?
- Will the reader be interested to read further? Or, will the reader wonder "So what?" or "Who cares!" or "why should I read this?"

Phrases to avoid:

- In this paper...
- This paper will...
- I will attempt to...

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- Last sentence of Intro Paragraph
- Covers what you will discuss in your paper in one clear idea
- Identifies the purpose of the paper
- Makes an assertion
- Is narrow
- Is specific

Writing a

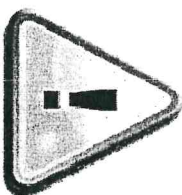
Thesis Statement

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- Is the title of the paper
- Is broad
- Is general
- Is the first sentence of the paper
- Uses first person
- A statement of absolute fact
- A question

Key Words:

Because
Since
So
Although
Unless
However



Samples:

Not good
As evidenced in *The Chosen*, the Walters, both father and son, illustrate that they make awesome life-long friends to have.

Good
A good thesis statement should include a clear purpose, make an assertion, and provide the reader with guidance toward the conclusion.

For a student to be successful, it is important that they listen and follow directions as well as complete all of their assignments.

Before finally being scared away, Goldilocks commits a series of crimes against the three bears including breaking and entering, theft, and loitering.

Not good
The high drug addiction rate in Phoenix, Arizona has caused an increase in theft and violent crimes.