

Thesis Statements

Now that you've brainstormed ideas and developed an outline for a paper assignment, what's next? Your thesis.

The most important thing to remember about a thesis statement is that it should state the main idea of your paper. One way to write a good thesis statement is to pretend that you can use only one sentence to tell readers about your topic. Therefore, you need to make sure that your sentence expresses the most important thing about your topic. Remember that this one statement is so important because the reader will decide to continue reading because of it.

You should always have at least a draft of your thesis statement before you start to write. This directs your composing. Often, after you have written the entire paper, you will want to return to the thesis statement and revise it.

- A good thesis
 - is limited
 - expresses one major idea
 - is specific
 - is a complete sentence
 - takes a stand-expresses an opinion
- What is Not a thesis:
 - an announcement of the subject
A thesis expresses an opinion or takes a stand. It reveals a specific attitude about a subject.
Examples:
Announcement: LPTS is a good seminary.
Thesis Statement: LPTS is an excellent seminary in part because of its world famous writing center.
 - a title--A title gives the reader an idea of what the thesis is going to be, but it is not the thesis statement itself.
The thesis is the main idea and will always be a complete sentence.
Examples:
Title: The person who has influenced me most.
Thesis Statement: The minister in the church where I grew up was such a fine woman that I decided to go into ministry and help people like she helped me.
 - statement of fact--Statements of fact do not make interpretations or judgments about a subject as a thesis does. Statements of fact simply detail names, dates, or widespread knowledge about a subject. These statements are not encompassing enough to use as thesis statements that form the basis of an entire paper.
Examples:
Statement of fact: Alcoholism is a big problem.

