

Thesis Statements Tip Sheet

What is a Thesis Statement?

- The thesis statement is usually a **single sentence** near the beginning of your paper. It's typically the **last sentence of your introductory paragraph**.
- Think of the thesis as a **road map** to the rest of the paper. This statement tells the reader the main idea of the paper.
- Sometimes the thesis is the **answer to a question** or prompt from an assignment.
- If an assignment asks you to **take a position on a subject**. In other words, you will need to **make a claim**. This is a **debatable statement**, not a fact. You are writing to **persuade your reader** to agree with your position on the topic. The thesis or claim is the main idea of the entire argument.

How do I write a thesis statement?

- Before you write your thesis statement you will probably need to take some time to think about your topic, collect and evaluate evidence, make connections between the evidence, and draw conclusions.
- Once you finish thinking about your topic, you will be ready to present a main idea and argument that you think will be supported by the evidence.
- You may need to make adjustments along the way, so think of your initial thesis as a **“working” thesis** while drafting your essay.
- **Reread your thesis** and ask yourself:
 - *Have I taken a position that others may reasonably challenge or oppose?*
 - *Will anyone care about this topic?*

If the answer is yes to these questions,
you have an interesting, debatable thesis—a claim, that you can argue in your paper.

Examples of a thesis statement:

- To retain top talent, businesses should switch to a four-day work week.
- We need to recognize the creators of today's modern video games as artists.