

Building Your Thesis Statement



Learning Outcomes



DESCRIBE THE PARTS OF
A THESIS STATEMENT



EXPLORE 3 MODELS FOR
THESIS STATEMENTS

Warm-up questions!

Why is a thesis important?

How do you write a thesis? What is your process?

What is a thesis statement?



A thesis statement is the main idea in your essay.



It is the “road map” of your paper.



It is an opinion based on interpretation of evidence and analysis.



It is debatable; it's not a fact.



Sometimes, it is the answer to your professor's prompt or question(s). Treat your assignment directions (prompt) carefully, looking for key terms that you can use to focus your thesis.

Where should a thesis statement be placed?

- A thesis statement is usually positioned **at the end of the introductory paragraph**. The sentences that precede the thesis statement introduce it and provide necessary background information.

Example:

Currently, the use of social media is ubiquitous. Children's use of social media is a highly debated issue, and parents are divided into two camps. Many think that social media does not have adverse effects on children; however, others feel strongly that the effects are detrimental. *Clearly, children under the age of 12 should not be allowed to use social media because the negative influences on their psyches are abundant.*

Two kinds of thesis statements

The enumerative thesis (a.k.a. “three-point” thesis) lists the evidence that supports your primary argument. Each body paragraph discusses one piece of evidence.

Example: The writers of *Futurama* use irreverent humor to satirize pop culture, comment on technology, and explore controversial themes.



The umbrella thesis encompasses the entire argument in a concise statement without naming each piece of evidence that the author plans to use.

Example: The irreverent humor used in *Futurama* is not used simply to entertain, but to comment on deeper societal issues.



1. An Expository Thesis Statement

An expository/informative thesis statement will:

1. State what will be explained
2. Outline the organization of your explanation

Example:

Most Disney films include family entertainment, family values, and family relationships.

- This thesis statement is informative because it establishes that the essay will provide information on Disney animations/films.
- This thesis statement uses **subdivisions**, such as, family entertainment, family values, and family relationships.

Creating an Expository Thesis Statement

Each category is a separate subdivision. Each will constitute a separate paragraph (if not more).



The formula is:

The topic + subdivisions (___), (___), and (___).

Practice 1: Write an expository thesis statement

Prompt:

Based on your memory of watching animated films (Disney/anime/your childhood favorites) explain how these films impacted your life into adulthood.



Take a minute to think.



Then write!



You will share your thesis statement with the group.

2. A Persuasive Thesis Statement

- It is a statement where the writer makes a claim about a topic and justifies arguments with specific evidence.
- The claim is often an opinion, an evaluation, a cause-and-effect statement, or an interpretation
- The goal of the persuasive paper is to convince the audience that the claim is true based on the evidence provided.

Creating a Persuasive Thesis

The formula is:

Topic +

Position +

Reason(s)

This will demonstrate the author's stance on the issue and the direction they are taking the reader.

Practice 2:

Write a persuasive thesis statement

Prompt:

Argue whether cartoons should have a message or meaning.



Take a minute to think.



Then write!



You will share your thesis statement with the group.

3. An Analytical Thesis Statement

- To analyze means to break apart.
- An analytical thesis statement answers **how** something does what it does or **why** it is as it is.
- An analytical thesis therefore is **an answer to a how or why question** that will be proven in the essay with the evidence (what you will "break apart").

Creating an Analytical Thesis



Template: Through _____(how), it is evident that _____(claim), which is important because_____(why it matters).

Example: By looking at the historical evolution of Disney films, we see a progression in the agency of the female heroines, which reflects an important cultural shift.

Practice 3

Write an analytical thesis statement

Prompt:

Analyze how male characters within Disney or other animated films have changed over time.



Take a minute to think.



Then write!



You will share your thesis statement with the group.

Adjusting your focus/scope:

Q1: What do you think about this one? Topic: Disney

A1: Too broad

Q2: What about this? Cartoons/films

A2: Better, but too general

Q3: How about this one? Disney cartoons/films/children ages 2 - 6

A3: Too narrow

Q4: What do you think of this? Disney cartoons/films/children/mental health

A4: Now this is a much better topic!

Thesis statement example:

Disney animated films can have a negative impact on children's emotional development.

Some Things to Avoid:

1. Structuring the thesis as a question.
2. Explicitly announcing the thesis as your opinion: I think / I believe / In my opinion (unless your professor instructs you to do so).
3. Direct announcement of the thesis: "This paper will discuss...(unless your professor instructs you to do so)
4. Using 2nd person, e.g., "you" or "your."
5. Writing a statement of fact as a thesis.
6. Being vague with your language.



What did we just practice?



We learned about the parts of a thesis statement.



We explored 3 models for **THESIS STATEMENTS**.