

# Writing Thesis Statements

## WHAT IS A THESIS STATEMENT?

A thesis statement is a sentence that clearly communicates the topic and reflects your position on the main idea of your entire paper. It tells your reader what your paper is about and is a great guide to help your writing stay organized and focused on the argument or topic.

## QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN YOU'RE FORMING A THESIS

### *Where is it?*

Typically, your thesis belongs at the end of your introductory paragraph. You want to indicate the point of your paper early on. Don't bury your thesis statement in the middle of a paragraph or the body of your paper.

### *Is it specific?*

Your thesis statement should be clear, strong, and specific. As you continue to form your argument and write your paper, don't hesitate to refine your thesis to make it reflect the points you make throughout the paper.

### *Is it debatable and interesting?*

Your reader should be able to question your thesis statement or begin a discussion about the point you are making. It should not be a general and universally agreed-upon statement. If you write an interesting thesis statement, your reader will want to continue reading your paper.

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## *Is it supported?*

Your thesis statement should be constantly supported in your body paragraphs with evidence from credible sources or great examples. If your thesis statement does not relate to the body of your paper, your reader will be lost.

### **TIPS**

- When creating your thesis, try writing a few different thesis statements out on paper or using a web to express the main idea and the different points that support it. Attempt to put your argument into words before you start typing your paper.
- Before they commit to writing the paragraphs that make up the body of their paper, many students find it helpful to make an outline to make sure each supporting point relates to the thesis.
- Avoid wordiness in your thesis. Your thesis statement should be clear and concise, allowing your reader to fully understand what you are going to be talking about in the paper.

#### **DROP-IN HOURS**

Monday – Thursday: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Friday: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sunday: 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.