

Writing a Thesis Statement

A **thesis statement** serves to inform readers about the **outline** of an essay (or other academic writing). It tells the reader (1) what the essay is about, (2) the author's opinion on the topic, and (3) reasons to support the author's beliefs.

The Structure of a Thesis Statement

A successful thesis statement must contain these **three elements**:

- 1) ... mention the **main topic** of the essay.
- 2) ... state your **claim** (opinion/point-of-view) on the topic.
- 3) ... provide three (3) **reasons** to support your claim.

Here are some examples:

- Ex:** Sandwiches are, undoubtedly, the best food in the world, as they are versatile, easy to make, and taste great!
- Ex:** Video games are a positive influence in many ways, including improving coordination, teamworking skills, and decision making.
- Ex:** Humans are not a species native to Earth because they have not acclimated to the planet's gravity, do not belong to any food chain, and have very high mortality rates during childbirth.
- Ex:** Students are not ready to return to classes. My reasoning for this is because virtual classes provide more tools for teachers, staying home reduces the cost of tuition for parents, and we are still in a pandemic.
- Ex:** Peruvian food is basically all the same thing with different presentations, and we can see that in the preparation of most dishes, the ingredients used in them, and the origins of these dishes.

In each of these examples, you can **clearly identify the topic of the essay, the author's opinion of the topic, and three reasons to support the author's point-of-view.**

How to Write a Thesis Statement

Follow these four simple steps to write your own thesis statement:

1) Choose a topic.

Pick a topic that you understand well, that you're interested in, or that you can explain the easiest. Pick one you know you can do successfully.

2) Formulate a question about your topic.

Now that you have a topic, what questions come to mind? This is your chance to be specific and choose exactly what you want to write about. A question can be about any aspect of your topic, and you will answer that question in the essay (in your own opinion, of course).

3) Make a claim.

You have a question about your topic – now answer it! You don't have to agree with the topic or the question, but you will need a clear answer to express your point-of-view.

4) List three reasons to support your claim.

Think of three logical reasons why you believe in your claim. Make sure your reasons are distinct enough to have three different paragraphs!

THESIS STATEMENT ORGANIZER

TOPIC:

Choose a topic from the list.

QUESTION:

Express the main idea of your essay in question form.

?

CLAIM:

Answer your own question, in your point-of-view.

REASONS:

Logical/Relevant Reason #1

Logical/Relevant Reason #2

Logical/Relevant Reason #3

THESIS STATEMENT:

*Combine your **claim** and your **three reasons** in sentence form!*