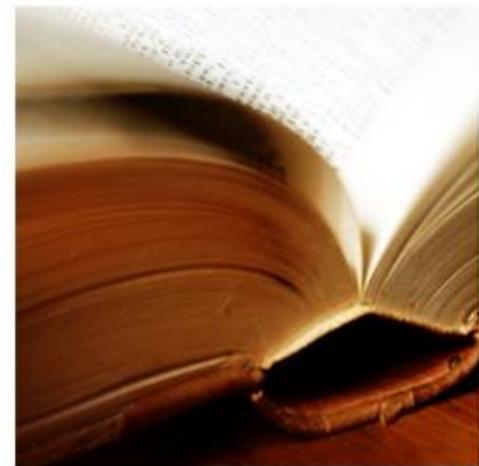


Easiest Way to Write a Killer Thesis Statement



A thesis statement and how it relates to the rest of the paper



A thesis statement should:

- What is your statement?
 - Should be debatable.
 - This is your 'answer' to the historical question.

Answer the questions 'how' is your statement correct

- Examples
 - Evidence
-
- 'why' is it important (impact*);
 - Why did this cause a change
 - Why is this a big deal why should the reader care.
 - Your thesis should cover what your entire paper will be about. Should be between 40-60 words.

A thesis statement is

a sentence that tells readers **the main points** your paper covers and **in what order** they appear.

It is your entire paper squeezed in **1 sentence** at the end of the introduction.

A thesis statement includes

- your distinct **standpoint** on the subject;
- a brief **summary** of the main arguments;
- a **roadmap** for the paper.

Thesis example -

Should a person study abroad?

- Every student should study abroad since it is one of the most culturally valuable experiences that an individual can have in college or high school because it is the only way to get completely immersed in another language and learn how other cultures and countries are different from your own.



Thesis example -

Should a person study abroad?

- Every student should study abroad (what) since it is one of the most culturally valuable experiences that an individual can have in college or high school (why) because it is the only way to get completely immersed in another language and learn how other cultures and countries are different from your own. (How)



A strong thesis statement is



Disputable

- Not obvious
- Some readers can disagree

Focused

- Not too broad
- Your position is clear

Relevant

- Not boring
- Readers won't say 'so what'?

5 Groups of Never-Use Words:

- Personal pronouns – I, you, we
- Uncertainty qualifiers – might, maybe, perhaps
- Extremism symptoms – everything, all, none, always, never
- Vague formulations – some, kind of, somewhat
- Obvious exaggerations – life-saving, best of the best

6 Groups of Must-Use Words:

- Sources of information: studies reveal, research shows
- Realistic views: many, significant, most
- Characteristics: primarily, frequently, often
- Clear explanations: because, thus, for, due to, since
- Relationships: impact, influence, tendency, contribute to
- Active verbs: demonstrate, illustrate, identify, elucidate, present, inform, reveal, show, express, justify, convey

10 Common Mistakes in thesis statements:



- 1) Declaration of topic: Similarities of Societies.
- 2) Questions: Are there similarities between cultures?
- 3) Captain Obvious: Overeating is bad for health.
- 4) Falling between 2 stools: Sometimes this can happen, but sometimes it can't.
- 5) Too many words – keep it brief (up to 25 words).
- 6) Making vows: I am going to discuss, this paper will analyze, the purpose of my paper is...
- 7) Random list: Argument 1; argument 2; argument 3

To be continued...

10 Common Mistakes in thesis statements (continued)



8) "*I don't care that you don't care*" – Birds can divorce.

9) *Random sentence* – The origin of this concept dates back to 1487.

10) *Ambiguity overload* – This concept may have a number of practical implications, even though this theory has certain limitations.

Best and Worst Examples - Part 1

- Declaration of topic:

Weak: Nursing as a demanding profession.

Strong: Nursing requires not only substantial education, but also perfect self-discipline and enhanced professional ethics.

- Questions:

Weak: Is study during sleep possible?

Strong: The recent studies have revealed that people can learn during sleep and subconsciously modify their behavior after they wake up.

Best and Worst Examples - Part 2

- *Captain Obvious:*

Weak: Internet can be addictive.

Strong: Recent research shows that the unpredictable way in which the useful e-mails arrive can make checking for them addictive.

- *Falling between 2 stools:*

Weak: Sometimes students enjoy their studies, but sometimes they don't.

Strong: There is a direct relationship between students' attitudes towards study and their learning outcomes.

Best and Worst Examples - Part 3

- *Too many letters*

Weak: I am going to discuss the importance of reducing the sugar consumption in American elementary school children who consume nine times the recommended daily amount of sugar because of the prevalence of soda machines and unhealthy snacks in the school canteens. (41 words)

Strong: Sugar consumption of American elementary school children should be reduced by controlling the menus of school canteens and raising children's awareness of healthy diets. (26 words)

Best and Worst Examples - Part 4

- *Making vows:*

Weak: I am going to write about the movie *Titanic*.

Strong: The 1997 movie *Titanic* was a huge success owing to the talents of the leading actors, the film director and the original genre of epic romantic disaster movie.

- *Random list:*

Weak: This paper will discuss *Titanic*, James Cameron and Leonardo DiCaprio.

Strong: see above.

Best and Worst Examples - Part 5

- “I don’t care that you don’t care”

Weak: Everyone’s happiness is different.

Strong: While the individual’s definition of happiness always depends on life values and experience, the concept of happiness doesn’t have a universal meaning.

- Random sentence

Weak: I enjoyed reading the novel.

Strong: Coelho’s fresh ideas and philosophical messages conveyed in his *Alchemist* produced a long-lasting impression on me.

Best and Worst Examples Part 6

10) Ambiguity overload

Weak: Sleep deprivation can have some negative effects on people.

Strong: The study reveals that sleep deprivation can lead to difficulties concentrating and weight problems in adolescents aged 10 – 14.

* Some more examples are [here](#)

Free online thesis statement generators:

- Thesis generator from MPCFaculty

http://www.mpcfacity.net/molly_may/thesis_generator.html

- Thesis creator from JohnMcGarvey

<http://johnmcgarvey.com/apworld/student/thesiscreator.html>

- Thesis builder from TomMarch

<http://www.tommarch.com/electraguide/thesis.php>

* Note that these thesis builders give you only standard examples, and it is always better to write a thesis statement on your own.

Final checklist

Could somebody disagree with it?

Is your standpoint clear and precise?

Does it pass the 'so what' and 'who cares' questions?

Does it answer the question 'how' or 'why'?

Does it tell everything your paper will cover in brief?

Doesn't it include any odd details?

Check it for must-use and never-use words?

Wow! Now your thesis statement rocks!