

Strong Thesis Statements

Thesis statement:

- Tells the reader what you are writing about in one specific sentence.
- It's a map for the rest of the paper.
- It tells us how you are going to interpret or offer a way to understand your subject.
- A single sentence near the beginning of the paper that presents your argument to the reader.

Types:

- Analytical—you are breaking down your subject and evaluating it.
- Explanatory—you are explaining something to your readers.
- Argumentative—you are making a claim about your subject and justifying this claim through evidence found in your research of professionals in the field you are covering.

In an essay, the thesis statement typically starts the paper/paragraph. In a longer term paper, the thesis is typically the final sentence of the first (introductory) paragraph.

Samples:

Subject: Civil War

Thesis: While both Northerners and Southerners believed they fought against oppression, the Northerners focused on the oppression of slaves while the Southerners defended their right to self-government.

Subject: Mark Twain's Huckleberry Finn

Thesis: Through the river and shore imagery in *Huckleberry Finn*, Mark Twain suggests that to find the true expression of American ideals, a person must leave "civilized" society and go back to the natural world.

Thesis: The river symbolizes both division and progress, as it separates both our characters and the country while still providing the best chance for Huck and Jim to get to know one another.

Subject: Drug use

Thesis: Illegal drug use is detrimental because it can encourage gang violence.

Subject: Environment

Thesis: At least 25 percent of the United States federal budget should be spent on helping support improvements in clean technologies, researching renewable energy sources, and planting more trees in order to control pollution.

Thesis: Because our planet's health may depend upon ecological diversity, we should implement policies that protect the whales.