

THESIS STATEMENT

A thesis statement is one or two sentences that appears early on in a paper (usually at the end of the first paragraph) to let the reader know what the paper is about.

A thesis statement typically follows a brief overview, history, or introduction to a subject before presenting the paper's focus on a specific part of that subject.

TYPES OF THESIS STATEMENTS

While there are different types of essays and papers, a thesis statement almost always has the goal of presenting or proving an idea, regardless of how the paper is written.

An **ANALYTICAL** paper will have a thesis statement that presents data or a topic to be analyzed, along with a claim from these findings.

An **EXPOSITORY** paper will have a thesis statement that makes a claim or states a fact, and the paper will then explain what is stated in the thesis.

An **ARGUMENTATIVE** paper will have a thesis statement that presents one side or point of an argument, and will then use evidence to prove that point.



THESIS STATEMENT TIPS

- A thesis statement should always be near the start of a paper. It typically works best [near the end of the first paragraph](#), following an introduction to give the reader context and to begin directing the content of the paper.
- A thesis statement should be clear and specific. [Avoid vague or abstract words](#), such as “interesting,” “unique,” “nice,” etc. Be sure to explain the “how” or “why” of your point by giving some details to the claim you are presenting. This can also establish the topics you are going to cover in your paper.
- Make it clear that you are making a point and that your thesis statement is actually a thesis statement. It should have a clear claim or point, so the reader knows exactly what you are arguing or claiming throughout the paper. However, a thesis statement should not need an explanation like, “This paper is about...”, “I believe...”, or, “I am going to write about...”

- DON'T: “This paper will be about primitivism and how I believe it fetishizes non-western cultures due to white fascination with the ‘exotic.’ I am going to write about Picasso’s Les Femmes d’Alger (O.J. Version O) as an example.”
- DO: “Primitivism is ultimately about the fetishism of non-western cultures that are filtered through a lens of white fascination with that which is ‘exotic,’ as seen in pieces like Picasso’s Les Femmes d’Alger (O.J. Version O).”

- [Be confident](#) in your statement. It may not be the only right answer or take on a subject, but you are trying to prove that it is at least viable.
- Remember: a thesis statement is [flexible](#). It may change as your research and paper develops. If it needs to be updated or you find your paper going in another direction, don’t be afraid to change it!

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