

Thesis Statements



The thesis statement of your paper presents your reader with your argument. It should give the reader a clear idea of what your paper is about, i.e. what you are trying to prove.

A. Your thesis is not merely a main idea or title. Rather, it is a complete sentence that explains the focus or purpose of your paper.

Examples:

Incorrect thesis: Children of alcoholic parents

Correct thesis: Children of alcoholic parents are more likely to be aggressive and cause disruptions in school.

B. Your thesis statement should not be vague or general. It is a more specific claim regarding your topic.

Examples:

Incorrect thesis: Learning a new language is enjoyable.

Correct thesis: Learning a new language can improve both verbal and reading skills.

C. A thesis should not simply introduce your topic. It should be a narrow and specific assertion that can be supported with evidence.

Examples:

Incorrect thesis: The purpose of my paper is to show how harmful global warming can be.

Correct thesis: Global warming can cause the extinction of animals such as the penguin and the polar bear.

D. Remember, you are writing a thesis *statement*. Therefore, your thesis should not be posed as a question. If you have a specific question in mind, your thesis may be the answer to that question.

Examples:

Incorrect thesis: What technologies do middle school teachers find to be most effective in the classroom?

Correct thesis: Blogging is the most effective form of technology used in middle school classrooms today.

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