

The Official  
Pocket Guide:

# Everything You Need to Know About **Thesis** Statements

# **The Official Pocket Guide: Everything You Need to Know About Thesis Statements**

By Homework Help Global

Published by Homework Help Global at Smashwords  
Smashwords Edition

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# Introduction

Coming up with a great thesis statement for your essay or paper is tough, and tends to be one of the most grueling parts of the essay writing process.

Your thesis statement is very important and sets the tone for the rest of your paper. Without a great working thesis, you will have a difficult time making a strong argument and guiding your paper toward an effective point. Additionally, it's hard to score a great mark without a good thesis statement, and that's the most important part of any college or university essay.

If you've found yourself stuck on this step, you are definitely not alone. Almost every student struggles with coming up with a thesis statement, but once you have it down, it's so much easier to write the rest of your paper.

In this pocket ebook, we're going to give you all the information and tools you need to come up with a great thesis statement for any type of paper. We will walk you through the process of narrowing down a broad topic, formulating a strong argument, and determining which type of thesis statement you need for the specific paper you're writing. At the end of this book, we've put together a list of thesis statement examples you're more than welcome to steal, tweak for your own benefit, or use as inspiration.

## About Homework Help Global

Just before we dive into the ultimate guide to writing an amazing thesis statement, we'd like to take a moment to share a little bit about us, and why we're an excellent source of information during your academic journey.

Homework Help Global is a worldwide custom essay writing company dedicated to helping students achieve their academic goals. We provide a variety of writing services including paper editing and proofreading, resume and cover letter building, online English tutoring services, PowerPoint presentations, and much more.

We work with a network of writers across the globe who have studied at accredited institutions in highly respected locations. From bachelor's degrees to PhDs, our team of top writers has produced highly advanced, quality academic content in a variety of different industries and fields for many years. Together, we are experts in educational services.

Our company has been operating for eight years now, bringing together a network of clients and writers to perfectly match individual needs. We have helped a variety of clients over the years,

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The Homework Help Show is our podcast and YouTube channel where we provide free advice, tips, and other helpful content to help students in many aspects of their lives, from finding the motivation to study to helping create thesis statements. On these channels, our top writers talk to student influencers, give expert advice, and do what we can to help students succeed. Check us out on Instagram, YouTube, Anchor.fm, and more.

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With over 150 pages of information, reference guides, step-by-step instructions, and tips and advice, this ebook will be a huge asset to you throughout your academic career. It's free to download, so why not take a look?

## **Let's Get Started on Your Thesis Statement**

Now that you know who we are and how we can help you, let's jump right in and talk about all things thesis statements! Turn to the next chapter, where we'll get started explaining exactly what a thesis statement is and why it's important to nail down.



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# What is a **Thesis** Statement?

# What is a Thesis Statement?

When we talk about thesis statements, it's important to understand exactly what one is before you can start to understand how you should write yours. This way, you know exactly where to get started and won't waste any time in the writing process. In this chapter, we're going to explain what a thesis statement is and why it's so important for the rest of your paper, no matter what type of paper you're writing.

Your thesis statement is the most important part of your essay. It's the argument or statement that will guide the rest of your paper. You will be using your thesis statement to structure your entire paper, guide your research and determine what points you should include, and to formulate your overall argument that indicates your knowledge and opinions on the subject.

Throughout this book, we're going to give you tons of great examples of different thesis statements, so don't worry if you're still feeling a little lost already. It will all make sense by the end of this book.

## **So, What is a Thesis Statement?**

A thesis statement is a sentence included at the end of your introduction that explains to your reader what points and arguments you're going to be making, and the conclusion you want them to take from your essay. Essentially, it's a direct and specific summary on what your paper is about, and it lets your reader know what you'll be discussing.

For example, let's say you're writing a paper about the dangers of smoking cigarettes. Your thesis statement would include your main argument (that smoking is bad or should be banned), and then the points you'll make to defend that argument (that it causes cancer, pollutes the environment, and endangers others through secondhand smoke). If you put that all together, your thesis statement would look something like this:

“Smoking cigarettes is a bad choice and should be banned because it leads to lung cancer and other health issues, cigarette butts pollute the environment, and the secondhand smoke causes health problems for everyone else.”

Now that you know what a thesis statement actually is, let's talk about why it needs to be good and how important it is for your paper.

## **Why You Need a Thesis Statement**

Every good paper, article, essay, or written piece of nonfiction needs a good thesis statement. Without one, your writing will seem unguided and directionless, which is the opposite of what a good academic paper is supposed to be.

A thesis statement is basically your answer to a research question. Think about what you want to answer within your paper. This question could be something basic, such as “Why were William Shakespeare’s plays and sonnets important to the English language?” Once you have your question, think about your answer, and put it into a sentence. So, for this particular question, your thesis statement could look something like this:

“William Shakespeare’s plays and sonnets were important to the English language because they developed many words and terms still used today, he was the first writer to use modern prose, and he set a precedent that today’s playwrights still follow.”

Now, this is still a broad thesis statement because you could fill up pages and pages about each of those arguments. But you can see the idea of how we are trying to narrow down your thesis and formulate arguments that answer the research question you’ve selected. Don’t be afraid to continue narrowing down your thesis and refining it until you’ve hit something perfectly narrow.

A thesis statement should also act as an outline for your paper, which tells your readers what you’re going to present to them and how you will be organizing that argument. Sometimes you’ll even find thesis statements that state the goal of the paper outright. For example, it’s perfectly acceptable to see a thesis statement that looks like this:

“This research paper will examine the contributions William Shakespeare made to the English language by analyzing his use of modern prose in three of his plays: Richard III, Hamlet, and Titus Andronicus.”

## **The Importance of a Thesis Statement**

Your thesis statement is a roadmap to your essay. It’s the heart and soul of your paper, and if you don’t choose strong arguments, you’ll have a really hard time with the rest of the writing and research. Not only that, but most of the time if you take a look at the rubric your professor gives you for your essay, you’ll find that the thesis statement alone is worth a big chunk of your mark.



Essentially, the thesis statement sets the tone of your paper and tells your reader exactly what you're going to be talking about or arguing for the rest of the essay. It also showcases how your paper is going to be organized, which helps everything flow seamlessly. You're going to be graded on how well your paper flows, and the thesis statement is the glue that holds everything together.

When you have a weak thesis statement, your readers won't be able to respond to your arguments and the whole point of your paper may not be clear to them. For example, a weak thesis statement may include something generic, such as "Abraham Lincoln was a good leader in U.S. history." A revised thesis would be, "Abraham Lincoln was a good leader in U.S. history because he ended slavery, improved the economy, and strengthened the federal government."

To sum it up, a thesis statement is important because it adds direction and guidance for your reader, gives a clear and direct idea of what your paper is about, and helps you keep your paper structured to flow properly.

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# **Avoiding** General Statements



# Avoiding General Statements

So, now that we know why we need a thesis statement, it's time to get into the process of actually coming up with one. It all begins by narrowing down your research topic into something you can argue and use to create a point. Therefore, in this chapter, we're going to talk about avoiding statements that are too general for your academic paper.

A thesis statement should be direct and clear. Generally, your thesis should be a maximum of one to two sentences. If you can't explain your argument or the purpose of your paper within two sentences, you need to narrow it down further or find another way to describe what you're thinking.

## Why We Need to Avoid General Statements

If your thesis statement or argument is too general, it's going to be hard to make sure your paper comes to a clear, direct point. A specific thesis statement helps you formulate your argument and stay on track toward your goal. If you make your statement too general, you run the risk of not including enough information to make your point.

Anyone can make a general statement about something, and this should not be what comprises your thesis statement. It's very easy to say that climate change is bad. In fact, most people would likely also believe this already. A real argument provides an analysis with credible facts explaining why climate change is bad, if or how it can be slowed down/reversed, or the factors that cause climate change.

Even if you're tasked with writing a research paper where you'll generally be providing objective information about that subject, you still need to form a statement that creates some type of point or argument. For example, if you need to write a biographical research essay about Abraham Lincoln, you could focus your thesis statement on why his election to President of the United States was a turning point in modern American history. Then, pinpoint the reasons he contributed to the growth of the country or the major challenges he overcame.

Even if you don't need to take a debatable stance on your subject, your thesis statement should provide an idea of what your essay will tell the reader. For example, if you are writing an essay describing how something works, you could briefly summarize the information you're going to present.

For longer essays, you'll need a thesis statement that is versatile enough to apply to every supporting argument and point you're going to make. That being said, if you are going to fill twenty pages with arguments, you're not going to have the room in one or two sentences to explain all of those ideas. If you can, you probably have one big run-on sentence that will lose you some major grammar points. Instead, think of an overarching point that connects multiple arguments together, and then make sure those body paragraphs are arranged in order within your paper.

## **How to Break Down a Topic**

When it comes to actually breaking down your general statement into something more specific, that's where the frustration comes in.

To make your thesis statement, you'll need to make sure your topic is broken down enough so you know what you are going to be focusing on. It should have enough information to tell your reader what information you're going to discuss in the paper and why they should care.

A thesis statement needs to be something that is debatable. Think about your topic and your particular position, opinion, or stance about it. What would someone who disagrees with you say to disprove your position, or what alternative viewpoints would someone present that might contrast with your ideas? If you can't think of an answer to these questions, your topic is too broad.

When you're trying to narrow down your thesis statement, try to think about the five W's: who, what, where, when, and why. If you can answer these questions about your specific topic, this will help you narrow down your argument. Try to answer as many of them in your thesis statement as possible without forcing it.

This is why it's important to try to choose a topic you're passionate about if you can. The more you care about something, the easier it is for you to explain exactly why someone else should care too.

Your topic should be something that you can narrow down to one statement or argument. Start with a broad topic that you know you want to write about (or that you have to write about as per your teacher's request). Then, come up with some smaller topics within that broad argument, and figure out how you want to specify your goal. Find a niche you can work with and go with it.

You can't simply take a broad topic and write about it. This is really not the best way to start your essay. For one thing, you'll find way too much research to dig through, which makes it harder to actually make a point about something. In that case, your essay will just be filled with generic information that doesn't really lead anywhere specific. This makes it difficult for your audience to find the focus of your paper, which will score you a lower grade.

For example, if you're writing a research paper about World War II, the topic of World War II as a whole would be too broad for one essay. Instead, you should narrow it down to one specific topic about something within World War II. So, if you're writing an argumentative essay, you could choose the topic "why aerial warfare during World War II changed modern warfare" or "contributions by women during World War II."

However, be cautious about being too narrow with your topic. Make sure you can still find enough relevant information before you start writing. And don't worry – you can always adjust your thesis statement after you start writing. In fact, this happens to the best of the best more often than you can imagine. It's all part of the writing process.

When you've drafted your thesis statement, read it over and put yourself in the shoes of your reader. Does what you've written give you a clear idea of what the paper will say? If the answer is no, you need to keep refining.



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**The Elements**  
**of a Good Thesis**  
**Statement**

# The Elements of a Good Thesis Statement

In this chapter, we're going to break down the elements of a good thesis statement and tell you what you need to include in the statement itself. This way, you know exactly how to put it all together and build an effective argument for your paper.

Every thesis statement should have two main elements: an argument or position and an answer to a research question. Generally, the argument itself will be the answer to that research question. From there, you need to break it down and determine exactly which arguments you're going to be making and what claims are going to back up your answer.

In the first paragraph of your paper, your introduction, you will introduce the subject and include your thesis statement. Start broad, and then narrow down to your thesis statement. The points you make in your thesis will be reflected in each body paragraph, expanding on your supporting arguments.

Think of it like a purpose statement. Why are you writing this paper? What is it you want your readers to know about your research topic? What kind of questions will you make people think about? Asking questions like this before you start helps you form your argument and make a strong statement about your topic.

## Questions to Ask Yourself to Help Create a Thesis Statement

When narrowing down your topic and writing your thesis statement, it's helpful to ask yourself some questions along the way to make sure you're on the right track. This is a great idea to keep yourself in check and make sure your thesis statement has everything you need to effectively guide the rest of your paper.

Here are some good questions you can ask yourself when you're stuck trying to come up with a good thesis statement or when you're having trouble breaking down your topic:

- What do I want the reader to know?
- What takeaways should I give to my audience about my topic?
- Why is this topic important to me? In turn, why should my audience care about it?
- What question am I answering?
- If my topic is a widely known subject, what information am I presenting that someone may not already know? Alternatively, what new information can I present?
- Is there a controversial opinion out there about this topic? If so, why does that person think the way they do, and what evidence are they using?
- What arguments could someone make to refute my position on my topic?

## What to Avoid

Just like there are certain things that should always be included in your thesis statement, there are also a few things you need to avoid that could ultimately weaken or ruin the impact of your argument – and your paper. Here are some of those things to avoid:

# What to Avoid



- ✘ Points or arguments that you don't plan on expanding on in your essay
- ✘ First person pronouns
- ✘ Improper formatting (more on this later)
- ✘ Overly long or lengthy sentences that confuse the reader
- ✘ Obvious or general statements that could be considered common knowledge already
- ✘ Not stating your intent or purpose



## **What Your Professors Are Looking For: Your Thesis Statement Checklist**

If you look at any of your grading rubric materials throughout the duration of your university or college education, you'll likely see that the thesis statement always accounts for a large percentage of your overall mark. Your professor is looking specifically to see how you use a good thesis to set the tone and message of the paper because this is an important way to structure and organize your work. Without that structure, you just have an essay that doesn't get a point across, and that is probably hard to read.

Here is a quick checklist of criteria that your professor is going to be looking for and grading you on when it comes to your thesis statement. Make sure you include everything on this list to get full marks:

- **Clarity:** Clear and precise arguments or points
- **Grammar:** No punctuation or grammar errors
- **Length:** The statement is not too long or wordy, but is long enough to make a direct point
- **Writing:** No cliches or overused statements are included, third person is used, and there are no instances of slang
- **Content:** The statement offers an insightful or unique approach to the subject or topic



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**Thesis** Statements  
For Different  
Types of Essays

# Thesis Statements For Different Types of Essays

There are many different types of essays out there, so naturally, there are a few different methods of coming up with the right thesis statement to meet the needs of your specific paper. In this chapter, we'll go over a variety of different types of essays or academic papers and help you determine what kind of thesis statement you should be using for each one.

The reason it's important to know what type of paper you're writing is that this forms the basis for your argument, and subsequently, your thesis statement. For example, in a research paper, you may be asked to take a neutral position on your topic and provide more general information about it. So when you go to write a good thesis statement for that research paper, it will need to be written with a neutral perspective and a more overview-based tone. In contrast, when writing an argumentative essay, your thesis statement will need to clearly outline the position you'll be arguing and the evidence that makes you believe that position.

Here is the difference: When writing a research paper, the thesis statement may be, "Julius Caesar rose to power in Ancient Rome during the first century B.C., and contributed to the development of the empire through political, economic, and military developments." Meanwhile, the thesis statement for an argumentative paper may be something like, "Julius Caesar was a tyrant and enforced a rule of political oppression, military destruction, and ruthless dictatorship."

No matter what type of paper you're writing, it will have to be a persuasive essay that positions your topic one way or another. Now, let's dive into each type of paper to give you a clear idea of what it is you need to write.

## Research Paper Thesis Statements

A research essay takes an in-depth look at a specific topic using lots of reliable and academic sources, facts, and other data. It could be about anything, from a specific event in history to a person, place, literary work, or object.

Narrowing down a thesis statement for a research paper is tough because you will almost always start out with something too broad. Your thesis statement is the glue that holds your entire research paper together. What is the reason you're writing this research paper in the first place, or the message you're trying to convey? Be sure to keep this question in mind and always refer back to the points you established in the introductory paragraph. Start out with the narrow topic and the areas of focus you'll be touching on.

Here is an example of a thesis statement for a research paper on the theories of the construction of the pyramids in ancient Egypt: “There are a variety of theories put forward by historians and archaeologists to explain how the ancient Egyptian pyramids were constructed, and the most well-known are the use of causeways and ramps, the use of cranes with counterweights, and the development of pulley systems.”

## **Argumentative Essay Thesis Statements**

This type of essay will present an argument to the reader and provide solid evidence as to why they should agree with your stance. You will present your point or view or position on a topic, and use your paper to try to convince your reader that they should take this point of view as well through fact-based, credible evidence.

In your argumentative essay thesis statement, you should present your goal (what you want your readers to think), and the main arguments you’ll make to back up that goal. Even though you’re arguing your perspective on something, you still need to avoid using first-person pronouns at all times. The best structure for an argumentative essay thesis is to state the argument you’re making, and then narrow down the main points of evidence or the reasons you believe your argument is valid.

Here is an example of a thesis statement for an argumentative essay about the impact of social media on dating in today’s society: “Social media has had a positive impact on dating in the twenty-first century because dating apps make it easier to find a date, it helps people stay connected in the first stages of dating, and it prevents people from wasting their time on those who are not a good match.”

## **Analytical Essay Thesis Statements**

In an analytical essay, you are making an argument or a claim about your topic and then supporting those claims with evidence. While it sounds like an argumentative essay, it’s a little bit different because you’re still presenting it neutrally instead of persuading the reader to take a side. Instead, you’re taking a deeper look at a specific topic within the material.

Your thesis statement for an analytical essay will explain the points you’re making about the subject you’re analyzing in a very short, direct way. This can be challenging, as sometimes it’s difficult to make everything sound as concise as possible for one sentence.

Here is an example of a thesis statement for an analytical essay about the multiple meanings of marriage in *Romeo and Juliet*: “Ultimately, the concept of marriage in *Romeo and Juliet* is used as a symbol of love, power, and law and order: Romeo and Juliet see it as the ultimate way to prove their love, their families see it as a source of power, and their Elizabethan society sees it as a way to legalize intimacy.”

## **Expository Essay Thesis Statements**

An expository essay is very similar to an argumentative essay, but your job here is to explain something to your reader in a clear and concise way. Instead of arguing one perspective or side of an argument, you are adapting a more neutral and objective tone to present the facts and evidence.

The thesis statement for an expository essay, therefore, establishes the topic you’re going to explain and gives a summary of what your reader will learn in your paper. It doesn’t need to list out all the main points you’ll state, like in an argumentative essay, because you’re exploring a specific topic with a neutral approach.

Here’s an example of a thesis statement for an expository essay that would explore the impact of mental illness in the workplace: “In Ontario, mental illness is a leading cause of disability leave in the workplace, as individuals who suffer from mental illness have a difficult time performing the tasks of their job while coping with their illness.”

## **Rhetorical Analysis Essay Thesis Statements**

A rhetorical analysis essay is an essay in which you analyze a text for its use of rhetoric, or rhetorical writing. Rhetoric is the art of persuasion through writing. It’s the technique and type of language used to connect to audiences and convince people to believe a certain point of view or message. Your job in this type of essay is to look at the author’s use of rhetoric in their writing and determine what techniques they’ve used. Additionally, you will need to determine how effective those techniques are overall. In other words, you’re looking to assess how effective the author’s arguments are.

In a rhetorical analysis essay, the thesis statement should be a summary of the arguments you’re going to make about the author’s techniques. Try to sum it up as directly as possible with a statement that covers the different methods the author uses, and their overall effectiveness.

Here's an example of a thesis statement for a rhetorical analysis essay on a theoretical article: "Smith begins to argue his point by building credibility through the use of facts and statistics, and successfully applies emotional appeal; however, his argument begins to weaken when he attempts to approach a moral reasoning that does not entirely make sense, ultimately unraveling the strength of his argument."

## **Reflection Paper Thesis Statements**

A reflection paper is a little different from the other types of academic essays because it's a more personal and insightful approach. You are also free to use personal pronouns, which makes things a little easier. The goal of a reflection paper is to write a critical reflection with your thoughts and perception of a particular work or subject. In other words, a reflection paper is a written personal reflection on your thoughts and ideas about a particular piece, such as a book, article, movie, or speech. You could write a reflection paper on just about anything, from your views on how the universe works to your thoughts about your favourite movie.

The thesis statement for a reflection paper should offer a brief explanation of how you arrived at your conclusions from your expectations. In other words, this should be a brief, direct summary that tells your reader if those expectations were met, or if they changed based on the subject material. You don't need to follow the basic point-by-point structure you'd use in an academic essay thesis statement, but you do need to be clear about what you're going to be discussing and the main point of your paper.

Here's an example of a thesis statement for a reflection paper on an article about animal testing: "As a lifelong vegetarian, I was always against animal cruelty; however, reading Margaret Groffman's article 'Animal Testing Alternatives,' I have come to the understanding that society needs to take a more proactive approach to reducing animal testing."

## **Compare and Contrast Essay Thesis Statements**

With a compare/contrast essay, you are taking two things and analyzing them to showcase their similarities and differences. You could compare and contrast two different people, books, journal articles, historical perspectives, or even types of governments. The options are seemingly endless.

Your thesis statement for a compare and contrast essay should establish the two things you're comparing and the main conclusions or points you'll make about them. You don't have to outline every single detail you'll be making in the body, but you should give some idea of the ultimate point you're going to reach.

Here's an example of a thesis statement for a compare and contrast essay about online versus in-person classes: "While in-person classes offer more advantages for students living on or near campus, online classes are well suited for adult learners or as back-up measures during extraordinary circumstances such as the COVID-19 pandemic."

## **Cause and Effect Essay Thesis Statements**

Also known as reason and result essays, a cause and effect essay explains the reasons why something happens, and the outcomes that occur when it happens. Naturally, you need to be writing about logical topics that are actually directly related with the evidence to back up your ideas. There are generally two ways to approach a cause and effect essay: the focus-on-effects method, where you provide a more in-depth analysis of the effects or outcomes of the topic, or the focus-on-causes method, where the analysis focuses on the causes. Whichever method you choose, you still need to establish a clear relationship between the two.

Writing a thesis statement for a cause and effect essay will generally follow the structure of your analysis. For example, if you choose the focus-on-effects method, your thesis statement will establish the cause, and then the multiple effects. If you choose the focus-on-causes method, it will be vice versa.

Here's an example of a thesis statement for a cause and effect essay on childhood obesity using the focus-on-causes method: "Childhood obesity has become an epidemic in the United States thanks to the abundance of fast food restaurants, rising prices for healthy food, and an abundance of technology that deters children from being active."

## **Article Summary Thesis Statements**

Essentially, an article summary means you're taking someone else's article and summarizing it in your own words. The goal of an article summary is to condense the information you have read and to develop a better understanding of the material.

The thesis statement of an article summary is essentially a retelling of the author's own thesis. This sentence should state the main idea that the author has presented. It's easier to do this when you write a summary because the author has already written the arguments. You just need to find them and underline them, then be able to rewrite them in your own words. It's okay if your thesis statement takes up more than one sentence, but try to keep it to two sentences maximum.

Here's an example of a thesis statement for an article summary on a theoretical article about nursing practices: "In her article 'Nursing Practices in Rural Communities,' Alicia Fisher argues that nurses in rural areas have a harder time accessing personal protective equipment, innovative technologies, and community resources due to a lack of funding from local, federal, and municipal governments."





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**How to **Restate**  
Your Thesis  
Statement in  
Your Conclusion**

## How to Restate Your Thesis Statement in Your Conclusion

In your conclusion, you'll need to be able to restate your thesis statement in a way that still presents the arguments, but isn't a copy and pasted sentence from your introduction. Therefore, in this chapter, we're going to share some tips and advice you can follow to make sure you state the same point with different wording.

The conclusion is the part of your paper that's going to leave a lasting impression on your reader. Here, you want to make sure that you summarize your arguments and gather the most direct points from them to remind your reader of the information you've presented.

Re-phrasing your thesis statement at the beginning of the conclusion is an important step that guides the summary that follows. It's also a mandatory component in any type of essay.

### Re-Phrasing Techniques to Follow

Try flipping the order of your main point and arguments. For example, let's say your original thesis statement in your introduction was, "Climate change is bad for the planet because it endangers animals, reduces natural resources, and causes air pollution." In your conclusion, you can say something like this: "Due to the negative impacts on animal populations, natural resources, and air quality, climate change is bad for the planet and should be taken more seriously."

You can also try switching up the punctuation (without making grammar mistakes). So if your thesis statement had a semicolon, try adding a comma and a conjunction to connect the phrases together. For example, if we use the same example we provided above, you would start off with, "Climate change is bad for the planet because it endangers animals, reduces natural resources, and causes air pollution." Then, we could re-state this in the conclusion to say, "Climate change has a negative impact on the environment; it leads to endangered animal species, depletes natural resource supplies, and creates dangerous air pollution."

One thing you should keep in mind when paraphrasing your own thesis statement is that the order of your arguments need to stay in the same order you discussed them in the paper. This is a rule for both your initial thesis statement in the introduction and the paraphrased version in the conclusion.

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**Quick Tips to  
Keep in Mind**



# Quick Tips to Keep in Mind



Before you go ahead and get started, we're going to give you some quick tips you should keep in mind when you're trying to come up with a good thesis statement.

-  The order you list your arguments in your thesis statement should be the order they appear within your essay. You can order them in chronological order, from least to most significant, or however else it makes sense for your topic.
-  Try to be as specific as possible, and avoid using vague words that could be misconstrued.
-  Avoid using sentence starters such as "My paper will argue that..." or "In my paper, I will argue that..."
-  Avoid using jargon or technical terms that are very niche-specific. Unless you're writing a very specific type of paper for a very knowledgeable audience, assume that your reader doesn't know all of those terms and try to explain it for a broader audience.
-  Always be ready to answer "so what?" about your topic.
-  Start with a topic outline, where you include your tentative thesis statement and arguments.
-  Pay attention to sentence structure. Your supporting arguments are stronger when they're written properly and effectively.
-  Avoid overusing passive voice. While passive voice is more acceptable to use in academic essay writing, using active voice can make everything easier to read.
-  Stay away from using cliches in the first paragraph or anywhere else in the paper.
-  Get someone to look over your first draft before you begin your final draft. Having extra eyes on your work helps you review your overall argument and its effectiveness for your readers.
-  Pick out keywords or standout phrases that have value to your overall argument and use them in your thesis statement.

The background features three vertical binder rings, slightly offset from each other, creating a sense of depth. They are rendered in shades of gray and black, with circular cutouts at the bottom.

The Official  
Pocket Guide:

**Master List:**

**Awesome Thesis  
Statement Ideas  
You Can Use**

# Master List: Awesome Thesis Statement Ideas You Can Use



Stuck coming up with something? Check out our master list of thesis statement ideas you can steal or tweak to make your own. Feel free to take the structure of these arguments and apply them to your own specific topic as well.



**1.** The childhood obesity epidemic is a crisis in the United States, but with the introduction of healthier lunches in schools and an updated nutritional education system, children may learn how to make healthier food choices to lower this obesity rate.



**2.** Scientists have now determined that humans are to blame for global warming. As a result, the best solutions to combat global warming and reduce the threat to the environment include state-sponsored legislature, changes to personal consumption, and a clean power initiative by the world's leaders.



**3.** With a death toll of approximately 200 million people in Europe, the Black Death of the fourteenth century had substantial economic, environmental, and societal repercussions.



**4.** Based on the official definition, physical size, and the lack of geographical connection, Oceania should not be officially recognized as a continent.



**5.** Animal testing is unethical and no longer necessary in scientific research and development because of the availability of effective non-animal alternatives such as in vitro methods, silico models, and computer modeling technology.



**6.** While the Atlantic Slave Trade is widely considered to be the leading cause of the American Civil War, historians also suggest that political and cultural differences between the North and South were contributing factors to the conflict.



**7.** Municipal governments can and should contribute to taking action against climate change on the local level by increasing funding for recycling programs, offering educational seminars for residents, and implementing composting networks throughout the city.



**8.** School uniforms are beneficial for students because they eliminate class-based bias, create a stronger sense of unity among peers, and represent the school in a more polished way.

# Master List: Awesome Thesis Statement Ideas You Can Use



**9.** Cyberbullying in schools is an increasing and alarming issue due to the rise of social media and smartphone technology, but it is difficult to enforce because of the nature of the Internet. Schools could reduce instances of cyberbullying by not allowing smartphones in class, restricting Internet access during school hours, and holding educational digital literacy seminars for students.



**10.** Beauty pageants should be banned because they are an outdated method of perpetuating the ideal standard of beauty, which can lead to mental health issues, eating disorders, and sexual victimization.



**11.** Illegal drug use is detrimental to society because it leads to chronic illness and death, gang violence, and sexual abuse. Therefore, the federal government should be diverting more funding to the War on Drugs.



**12.** University and college tuition should be free to all students because it would encourage more students to enroll in post-secondary education, strengthen the country's workforce and economy, and help lift vulnerable populations out of poverty.



**13.** In Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, the real villain is Dr. Frankenstein because he pushes the limits by trying to play God and subsequently abandons his own creation, causing the creature to become a monster due to lack of nurture and environmental conditioning.



**14.** There are many benefits to incorporating more walking into an individual's everyday routine, including weight management, higher energy levels, and increased metabolism.



**15.** Overpopulation is a contributing factor to the climate change crisis because it leads to overconsumption of natural resources, increased pollution, and habitat loss for some of the planet's animal species.



**16.** While there are many theories explaining why dinosaurs went extinct but their ancestors still live today, the most widely accepted theory is the meteor theory due to the evidence from three major discoveries: the layer of iridium in the 1980s, the Chicxulub Crater in the 1990s, and the 2018 study on forest collapse in the Cretaceous period.

# Master List: Awesome Thesis Statement Ideas You Can Use



**17.** Democracy is the best form of government because it promotes equality among citizens, encourages political participation, and allows the government to adapt to the changing modern world.



**18.** In order to avoid election splitting, encourage citizen interest in politics, and increase voter turnout, voting should be mandatory for anyone over the age of 18 in the United States.



**19.** There are many advantages and disadvantages to using statistics. While statistics provide evidence that is important for decision-making, this data is not always reflective of a whole population and leaves room for manipulation.



**20.** Modern CGI techniques have opened a world of new options for modern horror filmmakers, which has resulted in a surge in more violent and graphic movies that encourage desensitization to violence and sexualized treatment of women.



**21.** In William Shakespeare's Hamlet, the theme of friendship is explored in both negative and positive ways. Hamlet's friendship with Horatio embodies the true meaning of friendship, while his relationship with Rosencrantz and Guildenstern provides a negative depiction of friendship.



**22.** It is important to continue studying the Civil Rights Movement in the course of American history because it showcases the terrifying consequences of racism, the power of collective action, and the dawn of a new era in American legislation and rights.



**23.** Sergio Leone's 1964 film A Fistful of Dollars was one of the most important pieces in film history, particularly for the Spaghetti Western genre, because it inspired and ignited an entirely new movement of popular films and created an entirely new film craze that swept the world.



**24.** In William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, the theme of marriage is presented in three simultaneous ways: as a means to secure one's own wealth and power status, to embody a happy ending, and to legalize a romance.



**25.** Human trafficking is a global problem that is on the rise even in the world's developed nations. In order to save the lives of current and future human trafficking victims, potential solutions to the problem could include more global women's rights, increased education, and more funding for victim protection.



# Master List: Awesome Thesis Statement Ideas You Can Use



**26.** The consumption of fast food places severe consequences on the health of young children, and consumption should be limited in order to decrease the risk of diabetes, heart disease, and obesity.



**27.** Childhood bullying is a two-sided issue, in that children must learn how to cope if they are being bullied, while also learning not to bully other children. The best methods to teach this include children's literature, exemplary learning, and through artistic expression such as plays.



**28.** The Founding Fathers of America were important to shaping the country today because they developed the democratic state through the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution.



**29.** The United States Constitution is important in advancing democracy because it provides individual freedoms for Americans, sets out a set of governance for everyone to follow, and it limits the control and powers of the government through a system of checks and balances.



**30.** In William Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, the titular character portrays the theme of evil and the impact that evil can have on a human being through his emotional response to evil, his actions after becoming evil, and his eventual downfall.



**31.** Despite common marketing messages that GMOs are harmful for humans, these developments can have a substantial impact on solving world hunger, helping the environment, and increasing economic productivity.



**32.** John Steinbeck's novel *The Moon is Down* is an effective tool for persuasive propaganda, and served this purpose during World War II, because of his use of rhetoric through the techniques of logos, pathos, and ethos.



**33.** In Sophocles' classic play *Oedipus the King*, the character Jocasta serves as a representation of the position of women in the patriarchal society of Ancient Greece, and can ultimately be seen as an accurate reflection of the values of society during this period in time.



**34.** The fur trade should be banned because it has a number of negative impacts on the world: the cruel and unethical treatment of animals, the harmful threat to the environment, and the lack of need given the rise in synthetic fibers.

# Master List: Awesome Thesis Statement Ideas You Can Use



**35.** Superhero comic books often portray images of overly masculine male figures that promote common masculine stereotypes: muscular body types, bravery, and aggression or violence, which in turn creates high standards for young men to live up to and negative ideas of what it means to be "a man."



**36.** Juvenile incarceration can often have more negative impacts on offenders and society than it has benefits. Three alternatives that should be considered include sanctioned family therapy, multisystemic therapy, and institutionalized group care.



**37.** The Renaissance was a pivotal time in Western history because it led to important developments in art, religion, and science that had a profound impact on the modern world.



**38.** When examined from a feminist sociological perspective, Disney's Cinderella (1950) sends negative messages that can disempower women by telling them that they need to be pretty to find a man, that they cannot get what they want on their own, and that their life goal should be to marry a man.



**39.** Big cities are better to live in than small towns because they provide residents with significant social development, have more entertainment and consumer options, and can lead to more substantial economic opportunities.



**40.** The Me Too movement is an important aspect of today's society because it empowers female survivors of sexual or domestic violence to find the courage to tell their story, to connect with other survivors for emotional support, and to seek justice against their attacker.



**41.** NCAA football players deserve to be paid for their contributions to their respective teams because this is considered their job, their lives are restricted by the requirements of their position, and other companies profit substantially from their talents.



**42.** The Beatles are widely known as one of the greatest bands in history, and this remains true today because their music is still widely streamed and purchased, their musical techniques are still used in various genres, and their songs and styles are featured prominently in popular culture.

# Master List: Awesome Thesis Statement Ideas You Can Use



**43.** Libraries should receive more funding from municipalities because they provide valuable resources for university students, are integral for educational and family-friendly community events, and provide a safe space for people to complete various tasks.



**44.** Instead of increasing taxes on alcohol and tobacco, the government should focus on educational opportunities on the dangers of smoking and drinking, provide free resources to help people quit, and educate children at an earlier age before they become impressionable.



**45.** Charles Darwin's theory of evolution can be applied to the development of variations of all walks of life, including animals, plants, and humans.



**46.** While college and university is an expensive investment for today's students, it is an important way for people to forge career paths, gain valuable friendships, and learn life skills that will be useful in the future.



**47.** Elementary school class sizes should be limited to no more than 20 students in order to encourage more interaction with the teacher, provide appropriate care for special needs students, and to facilitate more class participation.



**48.** While social media has gained a negative reputation for encouraging cyberbullying and the distribution of inappropriate content, it should be valued for its ability to foster collective action, improve connection and communication, and encourage user generation or creative expression.



**49.** World War II had a substantial impact on the role of women in society because women gained more independence in entering the workforce, running their households, and gaining prominence as equals in society.



**50.** The Industrial Revolution completely changed modern society because it provided economic growth, allowed populations to spread across the country, and increased immigration.

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# Conclusion



## Conclusion

Now that you've reached the end of this book, you should have all the tools you need to craft a thesis statement that packs a powerful punch for your reader. You should be able to lay out your arguments and narrow down a great topic that will help you construct a clear, well-flowing paper that will blow your professor away.

Remember, there are plenty of services out there that can help you if you're really struggling with your essay. If you need help, reach out and ask for it. No one is going to judge you or think that you're a bad student if you seek out help. In fact, you'll probably be admired for it.

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Good luck with your semester, your essays, and your future academic and professional career!

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