

The Thesis Statement

- **What is a thesis?**
 - **specific** core idea, focus, topic, foundation, or roadmap of the paper
 - concisely expresses the main idea
 - usually a single sentence at the end of your first paragraph
 - is proved and supported by the body of the essay
 - justifies discussion and takes some sort of stand
- **What does a thesis do?**
 - presents the argument to the audience
 - makes a significant statement or claim that others might dispute
 - interprets a question or subject
- **What does a thesis not do?**
 - use general verbiage such as:
 - This paper will discuss...
 - I am going to prove that...
 - use slang, abbreviations, and poor spelling
 - simply stating a fact or ask a question
- **How to Develop a Thesis Statement:**
 - Turn the assignment into a specific question in which you aim to answer in your paper.
 - Q: “What are the potential benefits of using computers in a fourth-grade class?”
 - A: “The potential benefits of using computers in a fourth-grade class are . . .” (thesis)
- **Examples:**
 - **Bad:** The grey wolf is a timid creature that is being hunted and exterminated.
 - **Better:** Even though the grey wolf is a timid, gentle animal, it is being hunted and exterminated because humans wrongfully think it is a fierce killer

 - **Bad:** In this paper, I will explore popular childhood fairy tales.
 - **Better:** Fairy tales don’t just make good bedtime stories, they also help explain the psychology of children.

 - **Bad:** Using the internet has a positive effect on people.
 - **Better:** The internet improves lives by instantly connecting people across the world, creating new friendships, and serving as a forum for exchanging ideas.

 - **Broad and general:** Edgar Allen Poe’s poem “The Raven” is interesting.
 - **Better:** Edgar Allen Poe’s poem “The Raven” is interesting because of his use of imagery, intrigue, and tone.
- **Tip:** Some instructors teach the thesis is written as the first sentence of the entire paper while others say it belongs at the end of the opening paragraph. Follow the instructors’ requirements.

APSU Writing Center
Thesis Statement Outline

1. Pose a question or restate the question posed by the writing prompt.

Example: What are the primary causes of climate change?

**2. Make a claim, or state your opinion (without using the personal pronoun “I”).
Make sure to write your answer as a complete sentence, not a question or phrase.**

Example: Climate change is caused primarily by human activities.

3. Write down the three main points (pieces of evidence) that you will explore in your paper. These will become topic sentences in the body of your essay.

Examples:

- 1. The burning of fossil fuels, such as coal and oil, releases carbon pollution into the atmosphere.*
- 2. Deforestation means fewer trees exist to absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen into the air.*
- 3. Farming contributes to climate change because livestock produce methane, a greenhouse gas.*

4. Now, put it all together.

Example Thesis: Climate change is caused by human activities, such as the burning of fossil fuels, deforestation and farming.

Reference

EBSCO Connect. How to Write a Thesis Statement. (Oct 26, 2018).

<https://www.ebsco.com/sites/g/files/nabnos191/files/acquiadam-assets/Thesis-Statements-Handout.pdf>