

A thesis is a statement of your essay's main point, typically only one sentence in length. It may also be helpful to think of a thesis as the purpose of an essay or a claim that will be supported by evidence. Every sentence in an essay should somehow be related to the essay's thesis statement. The approach used in creating your thesis will depend on what type of essay you are writing. Here are the three categories of essays and examples of an effective thesis statement for each:

1. Informative (compare/contrast, how-to, definition, classification, report, summary, cause/effect, research paper): *"The initially dominant and impressive ancient Egyptian Empire eventually declined as a result of inferior war technology and civil war between the northern and southern regions."*
2. Argumentative (literary analysis or criticism, persuasive, proposal, critique): *"College students should be required to live in a foreign country for at least two weeks, as such a requirement would increase worldliness and cross-cultural understanding."*
3. Narrative (descriptive, creative): *"An internship at Super Cool Recordings allowed me to network with other talented professionals and helped me realize that I want to pursue a career as an audio engineer because the process of capturing and manipulating sound is fascinating."*

Tips for Writing a Thesis Statement

- If you can choose your topic, write about a subject you are passionate about or fascinated by.
- Try to identify if there is a gap in what is published about your essay topic.
- Ask yourself what the primary purpose of your essay is.
- Come up with a research question about your essay topic that can be converted into an arguable and focused thesis statement before you begin researching.
- After conducting enough research, ask yourself if your research question was answered. Identify if there is a consensus or a pattern among sources.
- Think of your research question's answer as your thesis statement.
- Get a friend to ask you, "What are you trying to say with this paper?" or "What is your paper's main point?"
- Evaluate your thesis statement's potential for negative feedback.
- Remember that you can always revise or change your thesis.
- If you need feedback on your thesis, contact your professor or ask a WLC tutor.