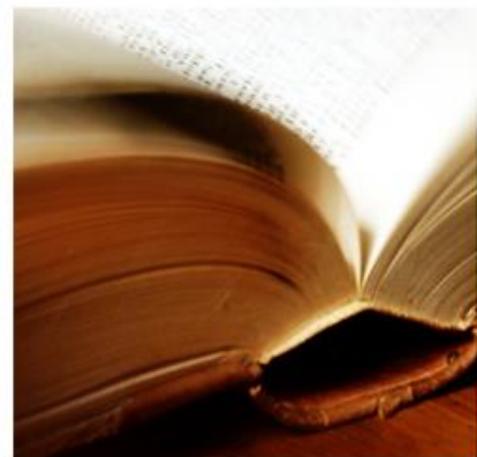
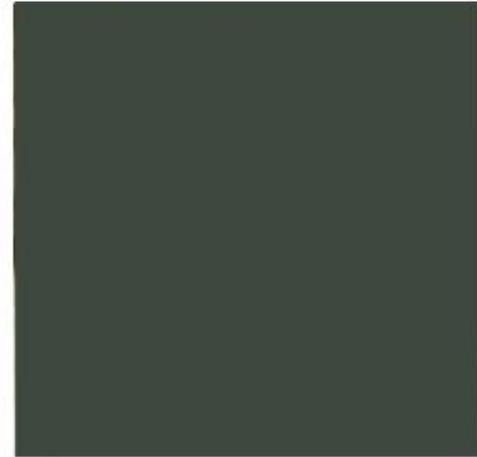


# Easiest Way to Write a Killer Thesis Statement



# A thesis statement is

a sentence that tells readers **the main points** your paper covers and **in what order** they appear.

It is your entire paper squeezed in **1 sentence** at the end of the introduction.

# A thesis statement includes

- your distinct **standpoint** on the subject;
- a brief **summary** of the main arguments;
- a **roadmap** for the paper.

# FAQ on thesis statements:

1) Does every paper need a thesis statement?

- Yes.

2) Where do I put it?

- At the end of the introduction.

3) Can it be longer than 1 sentence?

- No.

4) Can I rewrite it if I change my mind?

- Sure. Revisit your thesis statement as you work on the paper.

# A strong thesis statement is



Disputable

- Not obvious
- Some readers can disagree

Focused

- Not too broad
- Your position is clear

Relevant

- Not boring
- Readers won't say 'so what'?

# A thesis statement and how it relates to the rest of the paper



A thesis statement should:

- answer the questions 'how' and/or 'why';
- provide the logic of the paper;
- cover the entire paper.

The rest of the paper should:

- echo a thesis statement in every sentence;
- prove that the thesis statement is correct;
- repeat a rephrased thesis statement in the conclusion.

# 5 Groups of Never-Use Words:

- Personal pronouns – I, you, we
- Uncertainty qualifiers – might, maybe, perhaps
- Extremism symptoms – everything, all, none, always, never
- Vague formulations – some, kind of, somewhat
- Obvious exaggerations – life-saving, best of the best

# 6 Groups of Must-Use Words:

- Sources of information: studies reveal, research shows
- Realistic views: many, significant, most
- Characteristics: primarily, frequently, often
- Clear explanations: because, thus, for, due to, since
- Relationships: impact, influence, tendency, contribute to
- Active verbs: demonstrate, illustrate, identify, elucidate, present, inform, reveal, show, express, justify, convey

# 10 Common Mistakes in thesis statements:



- 1) Declaration of topic: Similarities of Societies.
- 2) Questions: Are there similarities between cultures?
- 3) Captain Obvious: Overeating is bad for health.
- 4) Falling between 2 stools: Sometimes this can happen, but sometimes it can't.
- 5) Too many words – keep it brief (up to 25 words).
- 6) Making vows: I am going to discuss, this paper will analyze, the purpose of my paper is...
- 7) Random list: Argument 1; argument 2; argument 3

To be continued...

# 10 Common Mistakes in thesis statements (continued)



8) "I don't care that you don't care" – Birds can divorce.

9) Random sentence – The origin of this concept dates back to 1487.

10) Ambiguity overload – This concept may have a number of practical implications, even though this theory has certain limitations.

# Best and Worst Examples - Part 1

- Declaration of topic:

**Weak:** Nursing as a demanding profession.

**Strong:** Nursing requires not only substantial education, but also perfect self-discipline and enhanced professional ethics.

- Questions:

**Weak:** Is study during sleep possible?

**Strong:** The recent studies have revealed that people can learn during sleep and subconsciously modify their behavior after they wake up.

# Best and Worst Examples - Part 2

- *Captain Obvious:*

**Weak:** Internet can be addictive.

**Strong:** Recent research shows that the unpredictable way in which the useful e-mails arrive can make checking for them addictive.

- *Falling between 2 stools:*

**Weak:** Sometimes students enjoy their studies, but sometimes they don't.

**Strong:** There is a direct relationship between students' attitudes towards study and their learning outcomes.

# Best and Worst Examples - Part 3

- *Too many letters*

**Weak:** I am going to discuss the importance of reducing the sugar consumption in American elementary school children who consume nine times the recommended daily amount of sugar because of the prevalence of soda machines and unhealthy snacks in the school canteens. (41 words)

**Strong:** Sugar consumption of American elementary school children should be reduced by controlling the menus of school canteens and raising children's awareness of healthy diets. (26 words)

# Best and Worst Examples - Part 4

- *Making vows:*

**Weak:** I am going to write about the movie *Titanic*.

**Strong:** The 1997 movie *Titanic* was a huge success owing to the talents of the leading actors, the film director and the original genre of epic romantic disaster movie.

- *Random list:*

**Weak:** This paper will discuss *Titanic*, James Cameron and Leonardo DiCaprio.

**Strong:** see above.

# Best and Worst Examples - Part 5

- “I don’t care that you don’t care”

**Weak:** Everyone’s happiness is different.

**Strong:** While the individual’s definition of happiness always depends on life values and experience, the concept of happiness doesn’t have a universal meaning.

- Random sentence

**Weak:** I enjoyed reading the novel.

**Strong:** Coelho’s fresh ideas and philosophical messages conveyed in his *Alchemist* produced a long-lasting impression on me.

# Best and Worst Examples Part 6

## 10) Ambiguity overload

**Weak:** Sleep deprivation can have some negative effects on people.

**Strong:** The study reveals that sleep deprivation can lead to difficulties concentrating and weight problems in adolescents aged 10 – 14.

\* Some more examples are [here](#)

# Free online thesis statement generators:

- Thesis generator from MPCFaculty

[http://www.mpcfacylty.net/molly\\_may/thesis\\_generator.html](http://www.mpcfacylty.net/molly_may/thesis_generator.html)

- Thesis creator from JohnMcGarvey

<http://johnmccgarvey.com/apworld/student/thesiscreator.html>

- Thesis builder from TomMarch

<http://www.tommarch.com/electraguide/thesis.php>

\* Note that these thesis builders give you only standard examples, and it is always better to write a thesis statement on your own.

# Final checklist

Could somebody disagree with it?

Is your standpoint clear and precise?

Does it pass the 'so what' and 'who cares' questions?

Does it answer the question 'how' or 'why'?

Does it tell everything your paper will cover in brief?

Doesn't it include any odd details?

Check it for must-use and never-use words?

**Wow! Now your thesis statement rocks!**