

The Writing Center

DLA: Analytical Vs. Persuasive Thesis Statement



This DLA is a writable PDF form. You can enter your answers directly into this document.

YOU MUST DOWNLOAD AND SAVE THIS FILE TO YOUR COMPUTER.

Do not complete this form in a web browser. You will not be able to save your work.

Student Name:

Important Note

To get completion credit for this DLA, make sure you complete all the required activities. If you'd like help while working on a specific DLA, you can meet with a specialist at the Writing Center. Keep in mind that you might need to schedule a second appointment to review your work, check your understanding, and get your completion credit. You can only review **ONE** DLA per appointment. (Check the last section of this DLA for information on making your appointment and receiving completion credit for your work).

Activities (approximately 1 hour)

Read the information, complete the activities that follow, and be prepared to discuss your answers when you meet with a tutor.

Understanding Analytical and Persuasive Thesis Statements

What is an analytical thesis statement?

- An analytical paper breaks the topic down into parts, examines each part, and determines how each part relates to the whole topic.
- An analytical thesis statement answers **how** something does what it does or **why** it is as it is.
- An analytical thesis, therefore, is **an answer to a how or why question** that will be proven in the essay with the evidence (what you will "break apart").

Creating an analytical thesis statement

Here is a formula and template on what an analytical thesis statement should essentially contain:

Your claim + **How it is supported** + Why it matters

Template: Through _____ (how), it is evident that _____ (claim), which is important because _____ (why it matters).

Example: By looking at the historical evolution of Disney films, we see a progression in the agency of the female heroines, which reflects an important cultural shift.

What is a persuasive thesis statement?

- A persuasive paper makes a claim based on opinion, evaluation, or interpretation about a topic and typically involves a call to action.
- It is a statement where the writer makes a claim about a topic and justifies arguments with specific evidence.
- The claim is often an opinion, an evaluation, a cause-and-effect statement, or an interpretation
- The goal of the persuasive paper is to convince the audience that the claim is true based on the evidence provided.

Creating a persuasive thesis statement

Here is a formula and template on what a persuasive thesis statement should essentially contain:

Topic + **Position** + Reason(s)

Template: In order to/Because _____ (topic), _____ **should (position)** since/so that _____ (Reason(s)).

Example: To ensure student success, the Legislature should avoid cutting community college budgets any further so that students can have a higher chance of graduating or transferring early.

Activities

Check off each box once you have completed the activity.

☐ 1. Analytical versus Persuasive Thesis Review

Generate one persuasive and one analytical thesis based on each of the following topics:

- a) Free college
- b) Parking at Mt. SAC
- c) Homelessness in LA

Analytical

a)

b)

c)

Persuasive

a)

b)

c)

□ 2. Practice with Our Prompts

Analyze the two assignment prompts below to determine if the writer is being asked to write a persuasive paper or an analytical essay. Underline the verbs (like explain, persuade, analyze) and nouns (like journal entry, persuasive essay) to see what form the writing is to take. You may be free to write either, but most prompts lean towards one type of paper over another. Note: the tutor can help you to analyze your prompt.

- **Assignment prompt 1:** Analyze the components of success in college. When you have a good understanding of the concept, explain it to your readers, considering carefully what they already know about it and how your essay might add to what they know.
- **Assignment prompt 2:** Propose a solution to a problem. Choose a problem faced by a community or group to which you belong and address your proposal to one or more members of the group or to outsiders who might help solve the problem.

Next, write a thesis for each assignment prompt above. If you are not sure which type the prompt is asking for, you could write both and then discuss them with the tutor.

Assignment prompt 1 Thesis:

Assignment prompt 2 Thesis:

□ 3. Review the DLA/Receive Completion Credit

1. Go to [EAB Navigate](#) and make an appointment (online or in-person).
2. Attend your session and be prepared to explain your understanding of the information you've learned in the DLA. Consider the main concept you learned and how you might use this in your future assignments/classes.
3. If your professor asks you to provide proof, you can review the "appointment summary report" through EAB Navigate (app or desktop). You will find all Writing Center appointments under "appointment summary reports" (app or desktop). Look for the summary report for your DLA appointment. This is where your writing specialist will indicate the title of your DLA and state whether it is "completed" or "not completed." If it is marked as "not completed," book a follow up appointment to complete.

Note: Appointment summary reports are also sent weekly to your instructor on record. If there is an issue, please contact us at writingcenter@mtsac.edu or (909) 274-5325.

If you are an individual with a disability and need a greater level of accessibility for any document in The Writing Center or on The Writing Center's website, please contact the Mt. SAC Accessible Resource Centers for Students, access@mtsac.edu, (909) 274-4290.

Revised October 2025