

A thesis statement is a sentence that gives the audience a roadmap to what you are going to be talking about in your paper. It can be **argumentative**, **analytical** or **explanatory**.

Your thesis statement should present your argument and all the parts of said argument.

They can be kind of different depending on the type of writing you're doing, and the subject you are writing about, but they are necessary for all academic writing. **Even if your professor doesn't say you have to have a thesis statement, you have to have a thesis statement.**

The statement should only talk about what you talk about in your paper; it shouldn't give background for your topic for instance.

It doesn't have to always parallel the organization of your paper, but normally it's stronger when it does so.

It's most often put at the end of your first paragraph where you've put all your background information. You should **restate**, but not **copy**, the sentence later on.

What makes a good thesis statement?

- Grammatically correct.
- Spelled correctly.
- Either **arguing** a point, **analyzing** a topic, or **explaining** an issue.
- Good scope for the length of your paper (not too broad or too narrow).
- Parallels structure of paper
- Easily readable (don't confuse your reader with a really complicated sentence).

Structure

There are three main **segments** of any essay: an introduction, a body, and a conclusion. Unlike an essay in high school or middle school, you're not necessarily aiming for a certain number of paragraphs.

The **introduction** presents your topic to the reader and gives them any necessary background information. A **hook** brings your reader in and gets them interested in the topic. Your introduction, aside from the hook and background information, will hopefully make your audience see why your topic is worth reading about or important. Conclude your introduction with the **thesis statement**.

The **body** should present your main argument, as reflected by your thesis statement. It's important to have some sense of order in your body. You might want to organize this chronologically (in order), or in order of importance (least important reason to most important reason). It's totally okay to try out a couple of different ways to organize your paper if you don't like the first draft! The Writing Center has a lot of activities that can help you organize and

reorganize your paper. It's best to avoid going back to the same point over and over again, so restructure if you think you are doing that.

The **conclusion** should summarize your entire paper, and most importantly, it should **restate** your thesis statement and clarify what your contribution to the topic has been. **Highlight** your main points and bring it back to how you presented your topic in the introduction.

Improving evidence and reasoning:

<https://yourlogicalfallacyis.com/>

Outline Activities