



Thesis Statements



Writing Center Hours: 8:30 AM - 8:30 PM M-Th,
8:30 AM- 4:30 PM F, 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM S-S
Email: okc.tutoring@okstate.edu
Phone: 405-945-3278

Definition: Thesis statements are the last sentence of your introduction, and they summarize the main point of your essay.

Lesson:

Author's Claim: For an essay where you must convey the author's overall message or claim, your thesis might look like this -

The general argument made by (author) _____ in (his/her work) _____ is that _____.

General Argument: For an essay where must make an argument, your thesis might look like this -

_____ is wrong/right because _____.

Argument with Author's Claim: For an essay where you must make an argument agreeing or disagreeing with an author's claim, your thesis might look like this -

Agree - By looking at _____ (his/her work) by _____ (author) one can see _____ which is important because _____.

Disagree - Although _____ (author) (believes, demonstrates, argues) that _____, I suggest that _____.



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Compare and Contrast: For an essay where you must write about the similarities and differences between two or more works, your thesis might look like this -

The differences [similarities] between _____ and _____ are (striking, pronounced) and they deserve _____. (thorough investigation, rigorous scrutiny, examination)

Or

Although _____ (work 1) and _____ (work 2) bear some similarities, they have many differences including _____, _____, _____.

Cause and Effect: For an essay where you must write about cause and effect, your thesis might look like this -

Considering important factors such as _____, _____, and _____, I suggest that _____ is the cause of _____.

Rogerian or Two Sided Argument: For an essay where you must write about both sides of a debate, your thesis might look like this -

In the debate over _____, some believe _____ because _____, while others believe _____ because _____. However, I assert that both sides are _____.