

*How to Construct a Thesis for your Essay:
Step By Step Instructions*

Objectives

What is a thesis statement?

Formula to construct a basic thesis statement

Other factors to consider for a thesis statement

What is a thesis statement?

A thesis statement is your paper's central argument/claim and purpose of a narrow and focused topic.

The thesis statement is usually located at the end of the essay's introduction paragraph.

A thesis statement is specific to the type of essay you are writing. Please check with your professor's instructions in your Canvas shell.

The thesis statement is debatable among peers. Meaning, a person researching the same content/field may come to a different conclusion.

Start with a question and then make the answer your thesis

STEP 1

ASK A QUESTION: Should schools require students to wear uniforms on a daily basis?

STEP 2

CREATE A DECLARATION: Schools should require students to wear uniforms on a daily basis.

STEP 3

LIST 3 REASONS WHY:

- Students experience less peer pressure
- Uniforms cost less overall
- Promote reduction of violence in school

STEP 4

COMBINE AND WRITE YOUR THESIS STATEMENT:

Schools should require students to wear uniforms on a daily basis due to the fact that students will experience less peer pressure, parents will spend less money on clothing, and schools will see a reduction in violence among students.

Thesis sample and explanation of non-bias language in thesis statements

Thesis: City council members are ineffective and should be thrown in jail.

This thesis is biased because it does not define how the members are “ineffective”, and the punishment is too severe.

City council members’ ineffectiveness is not a reason to send them to jail. Most reasonable people would find this statement biased.

Edited thesis statement: City council members should be term limited to prevent one group or party from maintaining control indefinitely.

Explanation: This is an arguable thesis because term limits are possible, and shared political control is a reasonable goal.

**Get the
tone right
and use
verbs that
convey the
correct
meaning**

- Your thesis statement should be identifiable as a thesis statement.
- You do this by using verbs that are firm, precise, and definite.
 - Examples: should, could, informs, reveals, states, symbolizes etc.
- Consider using a synonym finder or thesaurus to avoid repetition.

More examples of how to turn a question into a thesis statement

Question: What are the benefits of using computers in a fourth-grade classroom?

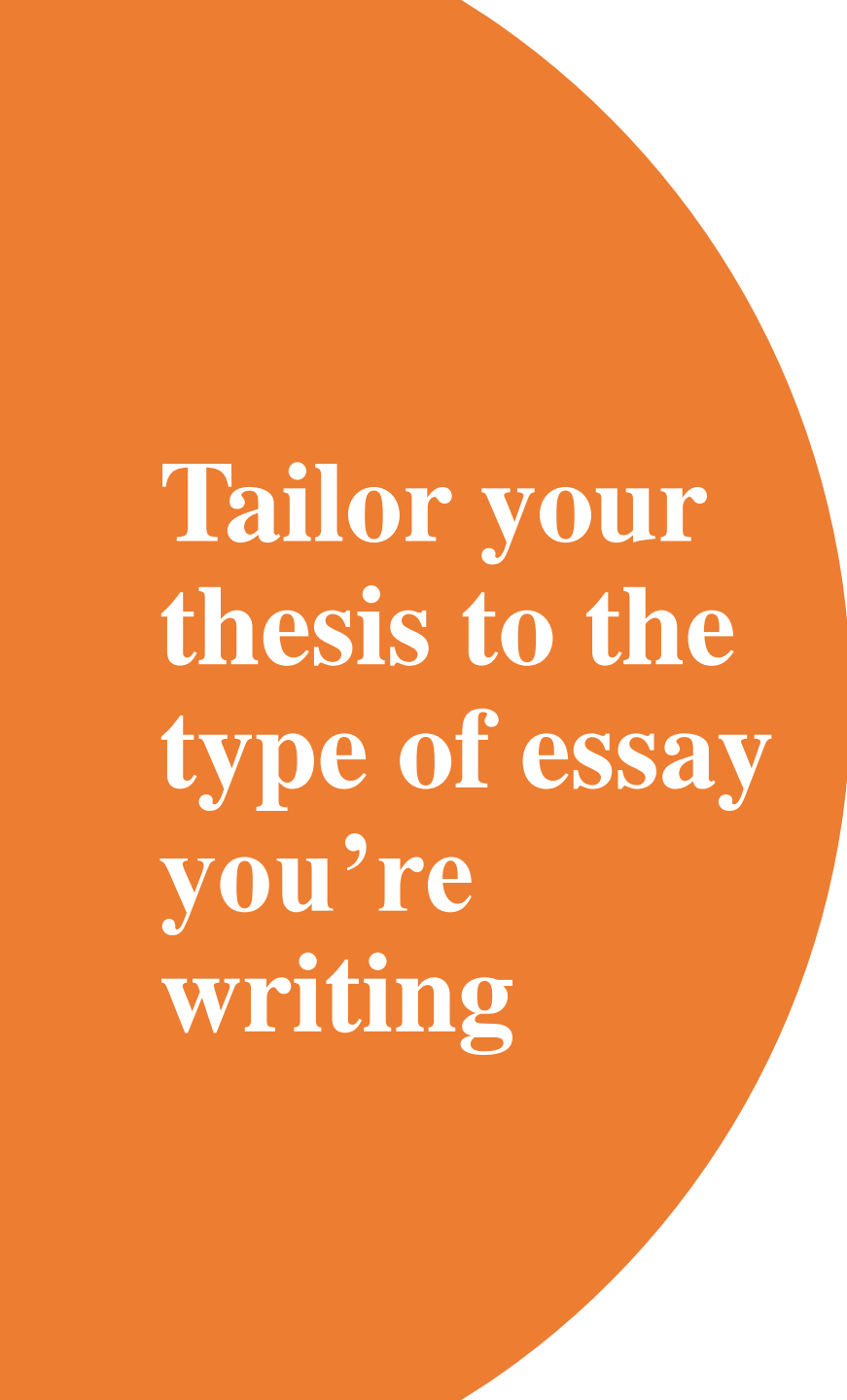
- **Thesis:** Computers allow fourth graders an early advantage in technological and scientific education.

Question: Why is the Mississippi River so important in Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn*?


- **Thesis:** The river comes to symbolize both division and progress, as it separates our characters and country while still providing the best chance for Huck and Jim to get to know one another.

Question: Why do people seem to get angry at vegans, feminists, and other "morally righteous" subgroups?

- **Thesis:** Through careful sociological study, it has been found that people naturally assume that "morally righteous" people look down on others, and label them as "inferior," causing anger and conflict where there generally is none.

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Tailor your thesis to the type of essay you're writing

1. Look over your Canvas shell to find out how your instructor wants you to formulate your thesis statement. Each instructor has different guidelines.
 2. Tailor your thesis statement to the type of paper you are writing. Expository, analytical, and argumentative essays have unique thesis statements as do Rogerian arguments or personal essays.
 3. Your thesis statement should be supported by your body paragraphs.
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Summary of how to construct a thesis statement

1

Start with a question and make the answer your thesis statement.

2

Limit thesis to one to two sentences, unless stated otherwise.

3

Place thesis at the end of the first paragraph, unless your instructor suggested otherwise.

4

Tailor your thesis to the type of paper you are writing (analytical, expository, argumentative).

Comments, questions, or feedback?
Please let us know.

If you are still unsure about how to construct a thesis statement, please feel free to contact us in the Learning Commons using your *Eagle Q to log in for a conference*.

Sources Used:

<https://www.wikihow.com/Write-a-Thesis-Statement>

<https://courses.lumenlearning.com/wm-writingskillslab/chapter/argumentative-thesis-statements>