**How To Write A Strong Thesis Statement**

A well written paper should always include a solid thesis statement. This documents contains information from the Purdue Online Writing Lab and a video from Scribbr that is a much more interactive way to learn about this topic and infinitely more entertaining than reading a few paragraphs from me.

A good thesis statement sums up the main points of your paper and keeps you on the right track during the whole writing process. This video will show you how to write a quality thesis statement in three simple steps. It outlines the three criteria for a solid thesis statement and examines the different types of thesis statement to fit the aim of your paper.

Happy writing!

Dr. Courts

[How to Write a STRONG Thesis Statement | Scribbr](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DFp1uGTXo4Q&ab_channel=Scribbr)

From the Purdue Online Writing Lab:

1. Determine what kind of paper you are writing:
* An **analytical** paper breaks down an issue or an idea into its component parts, evaluates the issue or idea, and presents this breakdown and evaluation to the audience.
* An **expository** (explanatory) paper explains something to the audience.
* An **argumentative** paper makes a claim about a topic and justifies this claim with specific evidence. The **claim** could be an opinion, a policy proposal, an evaluation, a cause-and-effect statement, or an interpretation. The goal of the argumentative paper is to convince the audience that the claim is true based on the evidence provided.

If you are writing a text that does not fall under these three categories (e.g., a narrative), a thesis statement somewhere in the first paragraph could still be helpful to your reader.

1. Your thesis statement should be specific—it should cover only what you will discuss in your paper and should be supported with specific evidence.
2. The thesis statement usually appears at the end of the first paragraph of a paper.
3. Your topic may change as you write, so you may need to revise your thesis statement to reflect exactly what you have discussed in the paper.

**Thesis Statement Examples**

Example of an analytical thesis statement:

An analysis of the college admission process reveals one challenge facing counselors: accepting students with high test scores or students with strong extracurricular backgrounds.

The paper that follows should:

* Explain the analysis of the college admission process
* Explain the challenge facing admissions counselors

Example of an expository (explanatory) thesis statement:

The life of the typical college student is characterized by time spent studying, attending class, and socializing with peers.

The paper that follows should:

* Explain how students spend their time studying, attending class, and socializing with peers

Example of an argumentative thesis statement:

High school graduates should be required to take a year off to pursue community service projects before entering college in order to increase their maturity and global awareness.

The paper that follows should:

* Present an argument and give evidence to support the claim that students should pursue community projects before entering college