How to Write a Thesis Statement

What is a thesis statement?

- Concisely states the focus of the paper
- Informs the reader what to expect in the paper
- Provides a solid framework for the paper

Where do I put my thesis statement?

- In the introduction paragraph (1-2 sentences)
- In the conclusion paragraph (this is a re-statement)

When do I write my thesis statement?

It is important to know what you’re writing about before you start, but your thesis doesn’t have to be set in stone. If you write the paper and find that it doesn’t fit, you can either modify the paper to match the original thesis or modify your thesis to match your paper.

**Note: Make sure that your thesis covers a topic that is narrow enough to thoroughly discuss within the parameters of the assignment.**

Now Let’s Write One
The following are two different ways to get to a clear thesis statement. Try them both and see which works better for you.

1. Answer the following questions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What is your topic?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>What is your stance on the topic? State this as a complete sentence.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Why do you believe this? State your reasons in a “because” clause.</td>
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</table>
Why would someone disagree with this? State the opposing opinion in an “although” clause.

“Although” clause

Stance on the topic

“Because” clause

Complete thesis statement. (Though it may need to be revised or simplified).

2. Read the explanations on the left and then follow the steps on the right.

Brigham Young University Writing Center. Thesis Statements.