
Creating a Thesis Statement

To construct a thesis statement, you will provide a subject or topic plus a comment or proposition about the subject (Topic or subject + Comment or proposition). The topic should be explicit and your comment should contain an important statement that directs your audience toward your findings by either asserting or denying something about the topic.

There are four characteristics of a good working thesis:

- The thesis should be one declarative sentence that has a subject and a predicate
- The thesis should be interesting
- The thesis should be as specific as possible—avoid broad topics □ The thesis should be realistic

When you write a thesis statement, you are identifying for yourself and your audience the topic of your article and what you are going to write about that topic. Sharply defined thesis statements provide the foundation for good writing.

Starting with an idea or a topic, you might create a working thesis that you may change as you begin to analyze your sources and incorporate the support into your paper. In addition to creating a working thesis, you may want to create a list of topics (an essay map) that you will cover in your paper. Placed in the introduction, the essay map alerts the reader to the organization of your entire paper. The thesis and essay map are the topic sentence for the entire essay, and they are located in the first paragraph or two of a small paper but can be located further down in the introduction of a larger work. The working thesis and the essay map will keep you organized while you write your paper. Remember, you can always change your thesis statement and you can always take away or add a topic to your essay map. So when you have completed your paper, your first task of revision will be to make certain that you have supported your thesis statement and followed your essay map. If you have topics within your paper that you didn't mention in your original essay map, you will adjust the essay map accordingly.