

Higher Order Concerns: Thesis Statements

The thesis is the central assertion of the essay. The thesis must make a point that readers care about and depending on the type of paper, it should be debatable. It must be supported with details and must be written in a complete sentence which makes an assertion. The thesis reflects your purpose. Ask yourself, "How can I explain to someone what my essay is about in one sentence?"

What strategies can I use to organize my thesis?

Think about your topic and purpose in light of the patterns of organization/modes of thinking:

- Cause & Effect
- Comparison & Contrast
- Problem & Solution
- Classification & Division
- Illustration
- Description
- Narration
- Process
- Definition

Your thesis may also be expressive (relate to personal experience), exploratory (examine an issue), explanatory (discuss a concept), or persuasive (argue a point).

Why should my thesis statement be specific?

A good thesis should show exactly what your paper is about. Readers need to be able to see that your paper has one main point. Also the more specific your thesis, the easier it will be to organize your thoughts and ideas throughout the paper.

Will my thesis change as I write?

Yes. This is because writing is a way of learning, and as you write, think, research, and explore, your beliefs and ideas may change. As you research and gain new evidence about your topic, your opinions and views of the topic will change and have to be re-examined. When this happens, it's okay to change your thesis to suit your new ideas and beliefs.

References:

Aaron, J. E. (2004). *The Little, Brown compact handbook* (5th ed.). New York: Pearson Longman.

Ruskiewicz, J., Hairston, M. & Seward, D. E. (2002). *SF writer* (2nd ed.). New York: Longman.

Thesis statement. <http://essayinfo.com/basics/thesis.php>