

What is a Thesis Statement?

- A thesis statement presents your opinions or thoughts on a subject or an issue. You cannot write an essay without one.
- A thesis statement must contain a subject + an opinion.
- A thesis statement answers the topic question (the one you created or the one presented to you by the instructor).

TIP: A thesis statement should **never** contain the following: *in my opinion, I think, I believe*, etc. However, it may be helpful for students to begin their thesis statement rough draft with *in my opinion, I believe, or I think* to make sure they are expressing their thoughts or opinion on a specific subject or issue. When writing the final thesis statement, simply eliminate those phrases

Writing a Good Thesis Statement

- **A good thesis statement is short and simple: it should be no longer than one sentence, regardless of essay length.**
 - Good Example: *Success is a result of doing the right things consistently.*
 - Bad Example: *In a world full of success gurus and books about success, it becomes ever so more important to delineate the one trait that ultimately determines success: doing the right things consistently.*
- **A good thesis statement is limited to one main idea.**
 - Good example: *The key to successful dieting is focusing on a specific goal.*
 - Bad example: *The key to successful dieting is focusing on a specific goal, which is also the key to successfully running a business and coaching a football team.*
- **A good thesis statement is a declarative sentence with no qualifiers (*might, maybe, perhaps, etc.*):**
 - Good example: *Lebron James' ability to score, pass, and rebound make him the league's most valuable player.*
 - Bad example: *Does Lebron James' ability to score, pass, and rebound make him the league's most valuable player?*
 - Bad Example: *Lebron James' ability to score, pass, and rebound just might make him the league's most valuable player.*
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