

how to write a

thesis

statement

What is a thesis statement?

A thesis statement is the **main idea** of an essay.

It is often a point you want to **inform** or **educate others about** in an essay.

The thesis statement explains to a reader the main idea of the essay, and the writer's **opinion** on that idea.

What is a thesis statement?

A thesis statement is usually **one sentence**.

It is often placed in the introductory paragraph of an essay.

A thesis statement will state the topic and purpose of your paper. It will also state the three key aspects (sub topics) of that topic.

The essay will contain **evidence in the form of quotes, facts, and examples** that **explain your main topic**.

Thesis statements avoid the following:

- the first person (I believe, In my opinion, etc.)
- unclear language (It seems, etc.)
- attempting two topics at once (even if they seem related). Pick one and stick with it.
- just stating a fact - A thesis is something you plan to make a point about.

Your thesis statement should be:

disputable

- Not obvious
- Some readers can disagree

focused

- Not too broad
- Your position is clear

relevant

- Not boring
- Readers won't say "so what?"

Example of an informational thesis statement:

Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches are a great type of sandwich because they are **versatile, easy to make, and taste good.**

Example of an informational thesis statement:

Sample Expository Thesis:

Topic

Key Aspects

Factors related to **student success** include **effective time management, motivation,**
and family support.

From <https://writingcenter.uagc.edu/writing-a-thesis>

Formula for a Strong informational Thesis

_____ is the most important thing to understand about this topic which consists of _____, _____, and _____.

-or-topic

**Topic (Main idea)
(specific point)**

+

**Key aspect 1
(paragraph 2)**

+

**Key aspect 2
(paragraph 3)**

+

**Key aspect 3
(paragraph 4)**

Steps

1. Find a topic that interests you
2. Read about the topic. Find the most important thing that others should know and understand about this topic.
3. Find Sources—research and find the key aspects (sub topics) of that main topic that best explain it to others.
4. Combine them to write your thesis statement

Examples

1. Día De Los Muertos “The Day of The Dead”
2. In Mexico, Día de los Muertos, also known as Day of the Dead, is a time to honor ancestors and loved ones that have passed away (Main idea)
3. **They do this through through celebrations called an *ofrenda*, offerings at graves, and festivals. (Three Key aspects)**
4. In Mexico, Día de los Muertos, also known as Day of the Dead, is a time to honor ancestors and loved ones that have passed away (Main idea) **through celebrations called an *ofrenda*, offerings at graves, and festivals. (three key aspects)**

Must-Use Words

Sources of Information

studies reveal..., research shows...

Realistic Views

many, significant, most

Characteristics

primarily, frequently, often

Clear Explanations

because, thus, for, due to, since

Active Verbs

Demonstrate, illustrate, identify, present, inform, reveal, show, express, justify, convey

Thesis Statement Tips and Examples

