
THE THESIS STATEMENT

The thesis statement is the MOST IMPORTANT SENTENCE in the entire essay.

It is a CLEAR, concise, and specific sentence stating the main idea of the essay and covers ALL subpoints to be discussed. AVOID being VAGUE.

It must be a sentence—it cannot be a fragment or a question.

It must be REQUIRE PROOF or further development; it cannot be a fact.

It should NOT contain phrases such as "I think..."; state it assertively.

It should not be too BROAD, too NARROW, or ANNOUNCE itself.

It is desirable to LIST the SUBPOINTS that will be developed in the BODY of the paper in the thesis creating a mini-outline of the essay. List them in the order they will be developed.

The initial thesis statement used in the draft will probably be revised to include any new relevant ideas discovered in the writing of the essay. The revised thesis statement is the measure of relevancy for EVERY sentence; delete any sentences or ideas that are not included in the revised thesis.
