

THE THESIS STATEMENT

Foundations for a Strong Essay

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 AND an opinion.

A thesis statement answers the topic question (the one you created or the one presented to you by the instructor).

A thesis statement tells the audience WHAT your essay will be about!

THE THESIS STATEMENT

- **A thesis statement will come at the end of your Introductory Paragraph in your essay.**
- It will give your audience a clear idea of what you will be talking about in your essay! It is important that your thesis is clear and specific! This will help both your audience, and yourself, stay on track throughout the essay!
- **Your thesis statement is a sentence that describes exactly what you will be talking about in your essay!**
- **Another word for a thesis is a CLAIM.**

TYPES: SHORT THESIS

- **I. A Short Thesis statement answers the prompt or question, but does not name the supporting reasons that the paper will discuss.**

Example:

Why is it important to eat breakfast?

Short thesis:

Breakfast is a crucial meal due to the many health benefits it gives people.

SUPPORTING REASONS- DEFINE IT IN NOTES!

Short thesis:

Breakfast is a crucial meal due to the many health benefits it gives people.

- In our short thesis, we mentioned that breakfast gives people “many health benefits”, yet we didn’t specifically say what those benefits were. In this essay, those benefits will be called our **supporting reasons**
- **Reason= a statement presented in justification of a claim**
- **Supporting Reason= ?**

SUPPORTING REASONS

- These supporting reasons should be general! They shouldn't be specific examples!

Short Thesis:

Breakfast is a crucial meal due to the many health benefits it gives people.

- Such as:
 - 1. It gives people more energy in the morning
 - 2. Breakfast helps people have a better attitude.

TYPE 2: LONG THESIS STATEMENT

- **In a long thesis statement, we include the supporting reasons with our answer.**
- This is a good idea for beginning writers; it gives the writer some structure to follow, and it gives the reader a preview of what the essay will be about.

Long Thesis:

Breakfast is a crucial meal because it gives people an energy boost in the morning and helps them bring a positive attitude to their day.

SUPPORTING REASONS ARE TOPIC SENTENCES

- In a long thesis, we include supporting reasons. These reasons will become our topic sentences in body paragraphs.

- They will help control the essay and keep the writer (and reader) on track and organized.

Long Thesis:

Breakfast is a crucial meal because it gives people an energy boost in the morning and helps them bring a positive attitude to their day.

Body Paragraph 1:

One reason it is essential that people eat breakfast is because of the energy it can provide to them. In the morning, it is sometimes hard to get going...

TIP #1

- **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

TIP #2: SHORT AND SIMPLE

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.*

TIP #3: ONE MAIN IDEA

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.*

TIP #4- BE SURE!

A good thesis statement does not have any qualifiers (*might, maybe, perhaps, etc.*), and is not a question!

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.*

WORKS CITED

Information for this PowerPoint was collected from:

Lorcher, Trent via:

<http://www.brighthub.com/education/k12/articles/20762.aspx#ixzz16bOPsFm6>