

Thesis Statements

WHAT IS A THESIS STATEMENT?

A **thesis** is like a road map for your paper.

A thesis is usually a single-sentence **response to an assignment** or an answer to a question. It is typically the last sentence of your introductory paragraph. A thesis presents a main idea and often aims to **inform** or **persuade** the reader toward a specific point of view.

3 Types of Thesis Statements:

Your concept of **thesis statements** will expand throughout higher education, but generally, many thesis statements written at the college level will fall within at least one of the three categories down below. Sometimes, an essay assignment may require that you combine more than one thesis type.

EXAMPLES of the three thesis types are **on the next page.**

➤ EXPOSITORY THESIS

This thesis type aims to **expose** new information to the reader, through description and explanation, with the use of reliable and credible sources.

Examples of expository essay assignments: Research Essay, Sequence of Events, Personal Narrative.

➤ ANALYTICAL THESIS

This thesis type is an **analysis** that breaks down and evaluates the key parts of a specific issue or idea to present a clear opinion or interpretation.

Examples of analytical essay assignments: Literary Analysis, Rhetorical Analysis, Reader's Response.

➤ ARGUMENTATIVE THESIS

This thesis type is an **argument** with a specific claim about a topic, which is supported by evidence in order to persuade readers toward a certain viewpoint.

Examples of argumentative essays: Compare & Contrast, Problem & Solution, Persuasive Essays.


YES! Things to include in your thesis:	NO! Things to avoid in your thesis:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chronological order: each point of a thesis should be presented in the same order as the body paragraphs. - Include a clear argument or claim about a topic. - Room to grow: your thesis may change as you write your paper, so remember to revisit and revise as needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Avoid statements such as, "This paper is about..." or "I am going to discuss..." A thesis usually does not include "I feel," "I believe," or "I think." - A thesis should <u>not</u> be in the form of a question. - Quotes should <u>not</u> be used in a thesis statement.

Thesis Statement Examples


EXPOSITORY THESIS

- What to include?**
- Main topic of essay
 - Significance of the topic
 - 3-4 points about the topic

Basic Example:
 Captain G. Allan Hancock was an accomplished historical figure with many interests.



Strong Example:
 As an army sea captain, businessman, and talented musician, Captain G. Allan Hancock was an accomplished historical figure with many interests.




How can it be improved?
 Expand: What makes Captain Hancock an accomplished historical figure? What are some examples of his many interests?


ANALYTICAL THESIS

- What to include?**
- Idea or issue for discussion
 - A claim about the idea/ issue
 - 3-4 aspects to analyze

Basic Example:
 The rhetorical devices in Dr. King's speech are effective and persuasive.



Strong Example:
 The rhetorical devices of ethos, pathos, and logos in Dr. King's speech effectively persuades his audience to peacefully advocate for justice and equality.




How can it be improved?
 Expand: What specific rhetorical devices does Dr. King use? What is he trying to persuade his audience toward?


ARGUMENTATIVE THESIS

- What to include?**
- What is the problem?
 - Why do we care (so what)?
 - What is a solution?

Basic Example:
 Allan Hancock College needs more parking structures.



Strong Example:
 The struggle to find parking creates traffic hazards and disruptions to campus life; therefore, Allan Hancock College should implement more parking structures.



How can it be improved?
 Expand: What problems does Hancock already have with parking? Your reader takes the bus or rides a bike to campus— Why should they care?