



# WRITING A THESIS STATEMENT

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The purpose of a thesis statement is to indicate what you intend to argue or prove in your essay or research paper.

The following is a list of properties of a good thesis statement:

It...

- Is usually one sentence (may be two in rare situations).
- Avoids clichés, vague generalities, metaphors.
- Uses clear concise language.
- States an idea rather than simply a purpose.
- Is comprehensive enough to represent the complexity of the idea that governs the development of the whole paper.
- Tells the reader what structure the essay's paragraphs will take.
- Is a complex rather than a simple or compound structure of clauses.
- States an idea, not merely a fact or a description.
- Expresses an evaluation, thoughtful commitment, reasoned judgment, or ventured argument of the writer.
- Gives some indication within the sentence of the reasons for the assertion it makes.
- Usually works best as the final sentence of the opening paragraph, as the culmination of the introduction.
- Is usually better in the form of a declarative sentence rather than a question, particularly if the question does nothing to indicate a resolution.