

Writing a Thesis Statement

What is a thesis statement?

It is more than a description of what the essay is about or a restatement of the essay question. It tells the reader what **position** you will take on the essay topic. A thesis statement always asserts something.

Where do I write my thesis statement?

The thesis statement is an important component of your essay introduction. An effective introduction should have these following elements and be approximately 10% of your total essay word length.

Essay Introduction Structure

Context

Provides a brief background or overview of the topic

Thesis statement

States your position or argument on the topic

Structure Overview

Previews the main points that you are going to cover in the essay

Scope

Defines any context or parameters of the discussion

How to write your thesis statements

The thesis statement should:

- do more than restate the question
- be specific and use precise language
- let your reader know your position or main argument

Example essay questions	This is NOT a thesis statement , because it does not assert anything or state a position.	This is a thesis statement , because it clearly states the argument.
' Critically analyse the factors responsible for unemployment in contemporary Australia'.	'This essay will outline the major factors responsible for unemployment in contemporary Australia'.	'This essay will argue that government policy is the major cause of unemployment in contemporary Australia'.
' Discuss the importance of sustainable development in government policy'	'This essay will discuss sustainable development'.	'This essay will argue that sustainable development provides a practical framework for government policy'.

Evaluate your thesis statement

- ☺ Does it do more than restate the question?
- ☺ Does it do more than describe what the essay is about?
- ☺ Is it the central idea of your essay and make a claim or assertion about something?
- ☺ Does it present an argument that can be supported by evidence?

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