



Developing a Thesis Statement

A thesis statement is an assertion or claim about your topic. It's a complete sentence (but occasionally 2 or 3 sentences) that presents your opinion on the topic. It's usually placed at the end of the introduction. The thesis statement may also include a concise summary of the reasons why you believe your claim is true, supporting points, or evidence (also referred to as a "map"). Review the four common types below and match them with the appropriate template.

TYPES OF THESIS STATEMENTS

1. A **general thesis** states a claim and may identify reasons for the claim.
2. A **cause and effect thesis** identifies a cause, the effect, and lists reasons for the effect.
3. A **literary analysis thesis** identifies the title and author of the work and may also highlight a literary device in making a claim.
4. An **argumentative thesis** should identify a concession and a claim. It may also identify reasons.

THESIS TEMPLATES

- a. Although _____, _____
Concession _____
Claim _____

because _____, _____, and _____
Reason #1 Reason #2 Reason #3
- b. _____ because _____
Claim _____
Reason #2, and Reason #3
Reason #1
- c. _____ uses _____
Title of work _____, Author _____ Literary Device _____

illustrate _____
Claim _____
- d. Although _____, _____
Concession _____
Claim _____

because _____, _____, and _____
Reason #1 Reason #2 Reason #3

Examples

If the topic is the **sundown towns**, then one stance you can take is as follows:

- The **sundown towns** should be outlawed.

If the topic is **American novels**, then you could make the following claim:

- One of the best examples of an **American novel** is *Sula* because Toni Morrison depicts suffering and community.

Use the space below to brainstorm your working thesis.

1) Copy your prompt here and circle your topic:



2) Draft your claim about the topic and consider reasons for claim