

All academic papers need to have a thesis. The thesis is simply the point of the paper; it is the overall message the paper intends to communicate.

Thesis Statement

A thesis statement is the single sentence that you could read to tell someone the point or central message of your essay.

Example: “Creamy peanut butter is better than crunchy peanut butter.”

The entire essay is focused on that claim and will go on to offer a logical defense of the claim. That is to say, the paper’s topic is the debate (creamy vs. crunchy) and the thesis is the side of that debate the paper takes (creamy is better). The entire point of the paper (the thesis) can be summarized in that statement.

Placement

The most common place to offer a thesis statement is in the introduction, generally at the end of that paragraph. By placing the thesis statement near the beginning of the paper, you can make the purpose of your paper clear from the start.

Strategies Concerning Thesis Statements

Development

The particular wording of a thesis statement may be determined during various stages of the writing process. Sometimes, the thesis statement can be the starting point for the first draft of an essay; other times, the thesis statement may come to you only after you have written out a draft.

In any case, the thesis statement should always be subject to revision. On the back of this handout, there are characteristics of a solid thesis statement.

Expansion

Since thesis statements help the reader understand precisely what the paper will attempt to communicate, it can be beneficial to include within the thesis statement a

