

HOW TO

Write an Effective Thesis Statement

Step One: Ask yourself, “What type of paper am I writing?”

An **analytical** assignment requires the writer to break down an issue or topic, evaluate, then present the results to the reader.

An **expository** assignment explains an issue or topic to the reader.

An **argumentative** assignment makes an original argument about an issue or topic that is reinforced with evidence. The claim should be an interpretation, an evaluation, or a cause and effect statement about the issue or topic. The writer’s goal should be to convince the reader that provided evidence is sufficient in proving the writer’s claim, or thesis.

Step Two: When writing the thesis statement it needs to be specific and supported by the evidence the writer will provide in the body of the paper.

Step Three: When placing a thesis statement the writer should be conscious of it’s location. A thesis statement should be placed at the end of the introductory paragraph, as the context or background included beforehand plays a crucial role in the build up to that statement.

Step Four: As the writer works through the evidence in the body of the paper the thesis statement may need to be changed or revised.

A example of a strong thesis statement:

Due to increased levels of interaction, college students that reside on campus are statistically more likely to graduate from college in four years because they have direct access to academic resources, student support, and clubs/organizations.

