

Comp Notes

Thesis Statements

A thesis is a statement of _____, _____, or _____ of an essay.

How many sentences? _____

Where is it often found? _____

A Thesis Statement Helps the Reader by Answering These Questions

What is the _____ of the essay?

Will this essay _____, _____, or _____?

What is the _____ this essay was written?

A Thesis Statement Helps the Writer

Gives _____ to your essay, like a roadmap.

Helps you stay _____ and determine which details to include or leave out.

Guides the _____ of your essay. All details point back to the thesis.

The 3-Prong Thesis Statement

It is used to present three _____ that relate to your topic and preview the main ideas of your three body paragraphs.

Steps to Create a Working Thesis Statement

A working thesis statement is like a thesis rough draft. It's strong enough to keep you on track as you begin writing your essay, but it may change.

1. Decide the intent of the essay: to describe, to explain, or to persuade
2. List your Topic + Prongs (Controlling Ideas)
3. Put it all in 1 complete sentence. (It should summarize/preview your essay, not explain it.)

If your essay topic changes or narrows, just change your thesis to match.

When you finish writing your essay, go back to your thesis and see if you can refine it.

Descriptive Thesis Statements

_____ an object, person, place, idea, process, or event.

The thesis names the _____ being described and the _____ for the description. It tells what is being described and why.

It should be free of _____, _____, _____ such as always, never, most, forevermore, greatest, least, etc.

Descriptive Thesis Statement Checklist

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Does it have a topic/subject? | <input type="checkbox"/> Is it free of "be" verbs? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Does it have 3 prongs? | <input type="checkbox"/> Is it one strong, clear sentence? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Is it free of universals? | <input type="checkbox"/> Is it descriptive? |