

Writing a Thesis Statement



What is a thesis statement?

The sentence that states the main idea of a writing assignment and helps control the ideas within the paper.

Why do you need a thesis?

- Offers a concise summary of the main point or claim of the essay, research paper, etc.
 - Usually appears at the conclusion of the introductory paragraph of a paper.
 - Helps your reader know your topic, position on that topic, and your reasons or how you'll be talking about it.
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Thesis vs. Outline

Outline - Describes the function of your paper.

Hook - The first sentence of your introduction, it has to catch the reader's attention.

Transition sentence - 1 or 2 sentences following up your hook used to lead into your thesis statement.

Thesis statement in an introduction paragraph:

Hook

Transition Sentence

Cats are one of the most owned family pets in most homes around the world. About 1 in every 3 households own a cat. **Cats can live up to two-thirds of their lives sleeping, which is significantly less than humans because animals do not have responsibilities like paying bills, going to school, or having a job.** This essay will inform the reader about the positive benefits of sleeping to improve your quality of living.

Outline

Activity:

How do you start your thesis?

Prompt #1:

Write about a life changing event and how it shaped you into the person you are today.

Prompt #2:

Tik Tok is a social media platform used by millions of people for hours in a day. Why might it be inconvenient for it to be banned?

Good Examples:

Technology has decreased our level of connectedness to others because it allows to disconnect from people in our physical environment and it does not foster the social skills needed in order to help us connect to those around us.



Topic

Technology has decreased our level of connectedness to others because it allows to disconnect from people in our physical environment and it does not foster the social skills needed in order to help us connect to those around us.

Position

Technology has decreased our level of connectedness to others because it allows to disconnect from people in our physical environment and it does not foster the social skills needed in order to help us connect to those around us.

Reasons

Technology has decreased our level of connectedness to others because it allows to disconnect from people in our physical environment and it does not foster the social skills needed in order to help us connect to those around us.

Bad example:

The judicial system needs to have power over Congress in order to do its job.

Why is it bad? → Unclear: why?

What does this statement mean? In what way does it need to have power over Congress?
What is the job the judicial system cannot carry out without this power?

Tips

An effective thesis statement...

- Provides readers with the main claim.
- Tells readers what your paper will be about.
- Write it as a statement rather than a question.
- Use your own words not quotes from a source.