

THE THESIS STATEMENT

1. The thesis statement: (1) establishes the writer's viewpoint toward the subject (2) gives an essay purpose and focus (3) serves as a road map for the reader and the writer (4) is usually the last sentence of the opening paragraph. Note: for a research paper, the thesis may come later, but usually in the introduction.
2. The thesis should be divided and supported. Ex. Most cattle producers have trouble staying in business because of rising costs, unpredictable weather, and long hours. Note: the support should be in a phrase or in a dependent clause. The emphasis of the paper should be in the independent clause.

The supported material within the thesis should have equal relevancy to the major idea and should be parallel in grammatical structure. Ex. A husband's role in a marriage is important in that he should support his family financially, serve as a role model for his children, and give emotional support to his wife.

3. The thesis statement is NOT: a question, a statement of purpose, or a topic statement.

These are NOT thesis statements: I will discuss a memory of my childhood tree house. As a child I had a dilapidated tree house. How do some movies encourage inappropriate behavior?

4. A thesis statement is often an answer to a question: How do some movies encourage inappropriate behavior?

Too many of today's movies encourage inappropriate behavior by depicting this behavior as a rite of passage, as an experience that improves self-awareness, and as a device for achieving personal gain.

Although dilapidated, our tree house was the perfect haven because it was a good place to stage wars, to daydream, and to think.

Practice: Write thesis statements for the following subjects.

1. your opinion of today's teenagers
2. why your hometown is a good or bad place to live
3. why you came to Veritas
4. what makes a good teacher
5. why you like or dislike parties