

How to write a thesis statement

? What are the differences between the **topic** of your essay and the **thesis statement**?

A **topic** is the overall subject of your paper (this can also be assigned by your professor).

A **thesis statement** is your specific claim or assertion about the topic that will guide your paper from start to finish.

? How do I get started writing my **thesis statement**?

Start with a topic. Decide on the topic for your paper. What interests you about the topic? What do you already know or need to find out about the topic?

Write a draft of your thesis. What are you trying to prove? What is your opinion about the topic? Can your thesis be debated?

Ask about your thesis: does it take a stand? A thesis should not be a statement of fact, it should be your opinion about the topic.

Ask about your thesis: is it specific? The job of your paper is to prove the thesis statement, so make sure it's not too general.

Ask about your thesis: does it support one main idea? If your thesis expresses more than one idea, you might confuse your readers about the focus of your paper. Supporting points should be included to prove your thesis, but should not be in the thesis itself.

