

Thesis Statements

Steps to Form a Thesis

1. Define your purpose and audience.
2. Identify the research activities. Which information will you need to convince your audience?
3. Formulate questions your research will explore. Create 3-4 questions most important to your audience that you will address.
4. After doing some initial research, turn your questions into a potential position statement that suggests the meaning, relevance, or importance of the evidence for your audience. What do you want your audience to do or believe after reading your paper and why?
5. Test the thesis. Does it:
 - Make a specific and narrowly focused claim?
 - Take an arguable position?
 - Go beyond opinion and is supported by credible evidence?
 - Offer new insights?

“Thesis Maker” you can try for argument or position papers:

Although _____,
(general statement, idea, or opinion opposite to the one you will argue)

nevertheless, _____
(thesis—what you want your audience to do or believe) (Specific Noun + Active Verb + Specific Modifier)


because _____
(the position or points you will support in your paper by using PIE, or point, information, explanation)

Argument Thesis Statement Example

Although many academic sources on battered women refer to these women as mere “statistics” or “subjects” in scientific studies, other sources that I analyze in this paper may be more powerful tools for helping these women because they incorporate the battered women’s actual voices.

Persuasive Thesis Statement Example

Although some argue that consumers should wait for the government to make and enforce stricter laws to protect them from BSE, which is also known as mad cow disease, I suggest an active approach in which the consumer takes extra precautions to stay safe because this active approach is more logical, more efficient as the government takes a long time to make a decision, and possible.





“Thesis Maker” you can try for evaluative or persuasive papers:

Create a clear, direct statement of what you want the audience to believe or do.

_____ ,
(thesis—what you want your audience to do or believe) (Specific Noun + Active Verb + Specific Modifier)

because _____ .


(Plan of paper: Criteria you use to evaluate the subject and persuade the audience to accept your thesis.)

Evaluative Thesis Statement Example

The Canadian Lung Association’s Asthma website, located at <http://www.lung.ca/asthma>, offers accessible, helpful, and reliable information.

*Adapted from Axelrod and Cooper’s *Concise Guide to Writing*

Persuasive Thesis Statement Example



The steroid use of some baseball players threatens the integrity of the sport by calling into question the legitimacy of all players’ athletic accomplishments.