

Guidelines

For Writing a Thesis Statement

A good thesis statement tells the reader what your topic is and, more importantly, it reveals how you plan to treat your topic. It also serves as a personal guide to help you focus on your topic throughout the research process. In addition, your thesis helps you to prioritize your research time, as you decide whether to read a particular book or skim it, photocopy an article or take a few notes on it, view a video in its entirety or fast-forward to the conclusion.

THE PROCESS AT WORK

A thesis statement is usually a single sentence that contains two main elements: a limited topic plus a specific feeling or attitude toward that topic. To arrive at a final thesis, you might follow this process:

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| ■ Select a general subject. | Global problems |
| ■ Narrow your subject. | Social needs due to poverty |
| ■ Select a working thesis. | Individuals who are tackling social needs |
| ■ Put your thesis in the form of a question. | How are individuals tackling this problem? |
| ■ Compose a final thesis statement. | Individuals are applying business strategies to tackle the social needs of the poor. |

Checklist for a Thesis Statement

- ___ My thesis statement focuses on a single, limited topic.
- ___ My thesis is stated in a clear, direct sentence (or sentences).
- ___ The thesis conveys my point of view or attitude about the topic.
- ___ I have access to enough good information to support my thesis statement.
- ___ The thesis predicts a research paper that meets all the requirements of the assignment.