



DEVELOPING THESIS STATEMENT





THESIS STATEMENT

Thesis statement is the main point or central idea of the essay

It tells reader that what is the topic of the essay and what is the main point

The topic of the thesis statement should not be too broad or too narrow

General topic should be narrowed down

Thesis statement must make a point about a limited subject

Vacations

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graph TD; A[Vacations] --> B[Summer vacation]; B --> C[Camping]; C --> D[First camping trip]; D --> E[My first camping trip was a disastrous experience];
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**Summer
vacation**

Camping

First camping trip

**My first camping trip was
a disastrous experience**

SUBJECT+OPINION+MAIN POINTS=THESIS STATEMENT

Subject: The topic or material you are writing about

Opinion: The attitude, position, or feeling you have regarding your topic (subject)

Main Points: Facts and reasons used to support your *opinion* about your *subject*

BASEBALL CARDS

Subject

- Collecting Baseball cards

Opinion

- Is a good investment

Main Points

- Relatively inexpensive when new
- Become valuable
- Retain value

THESIS STATEMENT

Collecting baseball cards is a good investment because baseball cards are relatively inexpensive when new, become valuable quickly, and retain the value indefinitely.

COLLEGE STUDY HABITS

Subject

- College Students' study habits

Opinion

- Ways to improve

Main Points

- Study in a quiet environment
- Pay attention in class
- Manage their time well

THESIS STATEMENT

College students' study habits can be improved by several ways by studying in a quiet environment, paying attention in class and managing their time well.

STRESS IN STUDENTS

Subject

- Stress in students

Opinion

- Methods to handle

Main Points

- Eating more fruits
- Breathing deeply
- Sharing feelings with friends

THESIS STATEMENT

The three ways students can handle stress better are eating more fruit, breathing deeply and sharing their feelings with friends.

Or

Students can handle stress better by using three important methods that are eating more fruit, breathing deeply and sharing their feelings with friends.

COMMON ERRORS IN THESIS STATEMENT

1. Write statements, not announcements

- I want to talk about the crime wave in our country
- The recent crime wave in our city has several apparent causes

2. Avoid statements that are too broad

- Men and women are very different
- Men and women are often treated very differently in the work place

3. Avoid statements that are too narrow

- The speed limit near my home is sixty-five miles per hour
- The speed limit near my home should be lowered to fifty-five miles per hour for several reasons

CONTINUED..

4. Make sure statements develop only one main idea
 - One of the most serious problems affecting young people today is bullying, and it is time more kids learned the value of helping others
 - One of the most serious problems affecting young people today is bullying

ACTIVITY

IDENTIFY THE TOPIC AND CONTROLLING IDEA

1. Our cafeteria would be greatly improved if several changes were made.
2. Celebrities are often poor role models because of the ways they dress, talk, and behave.
3. My first night as a security guard turned out to be one of the most frightening experiences of my life.
4. SUVs are inferior to cars because they are harder to control, more expensive, and dangerous to the environment.
5. The twentieth century produced three inventions that dramatically changed the lives of all Americans.
6. Stress in the fast-food workplace has led to serious physical, psychological, and emotional problems for employees.
7. Living in the city has certain advantages over living in the suburbs.
8. Before moving away from home, every person should have mastered certain key skills.
9. Independent mom-and-pop stores are superior to larger chain stores for a number of reasons.