

Writing Thesis Statements At University

What is a thesis statement?

A thesis statement is a summary of the argument you are making in your argumentative essay, thesis, or dissertation. It clearly states the topic being discussed and helps to frame your writing. When writing a thesis statement, you must take a position on the topic and be clear in your argument. A good thesis statement:

- Is debatable;
- Outlines the scope of your paper; and
- Can be supported by evidence.

Where do thesis statements go?

Your thesis statement is located at the beginning of your introduction, just after the opening sentence and before an outline of the topics you will cover in your paper. A thesis statement should only be one sentence long and may include some of the content of the argument to help explain your position. The outline helps indicate the structure that your essay will follow, as each body paragraph will discuss one of these points to help build on your main argument.

The following is an example of a thesis statement (in bold) and supporting evidence.

To meet the growing student needs, face-to-face lectures will no longer be offered in Australian universities by 2030. This inevitable demand for lectures to be uploaded online is due to increased cost of campus parking, a growing number of online students, more international students wanting to be able to replay content, students with special needs requiring easier access or captions, and students in general wanting flexible viewing time.

Steps to Writing Thesis Statements

Therefore, you begin writing your thesis statement, you need to consider whether a thesis is necessary for your paper as some assessment tasks may not require a thesis. You may then like to follow these steps:

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1. Highlight all keywords in the essay question and brainstorm your ideas and views on the topic.
2. Determine the main point you want to make.
3. Write out your position.
4. Rewrite your thesis until it has a **clear perspective** and strong academic tone.
5. Ensure that there is **strong evidence** available to convince reader of your point.

It is normal for your thesis statement to evolve with refinement as you gather more information and become more critical on the topic.

Tip: Reword your thesis statement for use in your conclusion. Restructure your sentence and use synonyms to help with rewording. For example:

Original Thesis Statement: The use of technology and screen time can be positive for children as it allows them to excel academically by experiencing expanding definitions of classrooms and literacy as a whole, improving low- performing developmental skills, and supplementing in-class education for more academically advanced students.

Rephrased Thesis: In conclusion, the use of technology and screen time have been proven to create a well-rounded and positive educational experience for children. Technology supplements in-class education, improves developmental skills and allows children to excel academically by embracing an expanding definition of the classroom.

Counter Arguments

In some cases, you will need to mention and refute any counter arguments that oppose the position you have taken in your essay. Counter arguments do not belong in your thesis statement but are mentioned briefly in each paragraph as you discuss each of your points.

Adapted From: UWA Study Smarter, UAGC Writing Center

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