

Guidelines for creating strong thesis statements

An effective thesis statement meets the following criteria:

- **Substantial:** A thesis should be something that people will be curious about and want to read.
- **Supportable:** A thesis must be a claim that can be proven. The claim should not be just a preference or opinion. It should be objective.
- **Precise:** A thesis is focused and specific. An effective thesis statement should be as clear and specific as possible and not make overblown global statements. For example, terms like “positive,” “negative,” “similar,” and “different” are too vague.
- **Arguable:** A thesis should be debatable, proposing an arguable point that can be agreed with or disagreed with. Explicitly identify the assumptions you are making.
- **Shows awareness of other angles:** A thesis anticipates and refutes possible counter-arguments.

Overall, be mindful of terms and categories that you are using. Make sure that you are aware of all of the meanings and connotations of your words. Loaded terms such as “real,” “believable,” “true,” “correct,” and “good” should be avoided because they have different meanings for different people.