

L4 – Reading & Writing

Lesson 2

Today, we will...

1. Have a vocabulary quiz
2. Discuss what you've read
3. Learn how to write a thesis



Argumentative Essay Thesis Statement

The structure of an argumentative essay is...

Introduction:	Thesis Statement & hook
Main Body:	Claim & evidence (Persuasion)
Opposition:	Opposition & refutation (Concession)
Conclusion:	Summary

A thesis statement is...

one sentence that expresses the main idea of a research paper or essay, such as an expository essay or argumentative essay. It makes a claim, directly answering a question.

For Example...

“Americans should add exercise to their daily morning routine because it not only keeps their bodies at a healthy weight but also reduces the risk of high blood pressure.”

Before you write, you need to...

1. Choose a specific topic: Narrow subject matter down.
2. Select a related question: determine questions you want to investigate.
3. Answer the question: Think of ideas about the answer to the question.
4. Formulate thesis: modify the question and answer into a thesis statement.

Thesis Sample

Controversial Issue:

Some people believe it is often necessary, even desirable, for political leaders to withhold information from the public. Others believe that the public has a right to be fully informed. Who do you think is right? Why?

1. Choose a topic: The public should be fully informed
2. Questions: Why should they be fully informed?
3. Answer: Can make the right decisions for themselves.
4. Thesis: I believe that the public has the right to fully informed, because only by doing so, they can make the right decisions for themselves.

Good thesis VS. bad thesis

European travel is a good way to spend your summer, because it will make you happy.

BAD! not specific enough. Why is European travel good? Further examine the heart of your topic and focus on very specific areas of European travel that you can realistically cover and support with solid evidence.

Solo European travel is better for it requires independence which, in the end, bolsters personal confidence.

GOOD! This is much more specific and targeted. Now, you can hone in your research on solo travel through Europe, the need for independence, and its positive effect on personal confidence.

Good thesis VS. bad thesis

High levels of alcohol consumption are bad for you.

BAD! This is too broad. What are the specific detriments of alcohol consumption that you would like to discuss?

High levels of alcohol consumption have detrimental effects on your personal health, such as weight gain, heart disease, and liver complications.

GOOD! Notice we got very specific in our reasons why. In your thesis statement, you don't need to state every single detriment you're going to lay out, but you can point to the main areas you will explore.

In-class writing assignment – Thesis

Controversial Issue:

Some people believe that college students should consider only their own talents and interests when choosing a field of study. Others believe that college students should base their choice of a field of study on the availability of jobs in that field. Which do you agree with?

Pick a side: Talents and interests

For example...

College students should base their choice of major on their own talents and interests, because only by doing things they are interested in, can students gain a true sense of purpose and achieve real happiness in life.

④ Homework

1. Reading Assignment:

Small Reactors Are Beautiful
A Fossil Fuel Future

2. Writing Assignment:

Finish thesis statement
Pick a Controversial Topic



Thanks!

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