

THESIS STATEMENTS

WHAT IS A THESIS STATEMENT?

- Introduction of the topics discussed throughout a writer's paper
- Helps the reader to know what to expect before reading the rest of the paper
- Usually goes at the end of the introduction paragraph
- Typically one sentence long

EXAMPLE:

Imagine an assignment designed to evaluate some of the resources offered by the Writing Center. The writer brainstorms and plans on including these topics: *online tutoring, formatting handouts, and in person tutoring.*

Thesis: For students of any major and any writing level, the Writing Center offers various tools to aid in the writing process, including online tutoring, formatting handouts, and in person tutoring.

PROCESS:

- Brainstorm and outline what to write about
 1. Put those topics together
 - (a) Example: online tutoring, formatting handouts, and in person tutoring
- The beginning of a thesis should flow with the rest of the introduction
 1. This will depend on the type of paper you are writing, whether it is an argumentative paper, an analytical paper, or an expository paper, because this changes the way to approach the thesis statement
 - (a) **Argumentative papers** are used to convince the audience that one argument is true using evidence and the author's opinion
 - (b) **Analytical papers** are used to evaluate an issue or an idea in depth and convey that to the reader
 - (c) **Expository papers** are used to explain an idea or issue to the reader
- Draft a thesis based on the type of paper being written
- Use this thesis as a starting point for the paper
- Topics may change in the writing process, so revise the thesis to fit the paper

EXAMPLE:

If one of the topics of the paper is changed from *formatting handouts* to *providing brainstorming ideas*, the thesis statement would be changed.

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Additional online resources can be found at www.madonna.edu/owl

Thesis: For students of any major and any writing level, the Writing Center offers various tools to aid in the writing process, including online tutoring, providing brainstorming ideas, and in person tutoring.

THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- Be specific and only include details that will be in the paper
- Use the thesis as a tool to help keep on topic while writing the paper
- Don't be afraid to edit the thesis if the topics of the paper change
- Make the thesis fit the paper; do not make the paper fit the thesis
- Make the thesis statement clear and concise
- Thesis statements should flow with the rest of an introduction
- The thesis is a part of the introduction and should not seem like a separate paragraph or section of the paper

QUESTIONS TO ASK (AND ANSWER):

- What is the subject and point of view/opinion?
- Why is this important, interesting or persuasive?
- How will these ideas be argued, analyzed or explained?