

Higher Order Concerns: Thesis Statements

The thesis is the central assertion of the essay. The thesis must make a point that readers care about and depending on the type of paper, it should be debatable. It must be supported with details and must be written in a complete sentence which makes an assertion. The thesis reflects your purpose. Ask yourself, "How can I explain to someone what my essay is about in one sentence?"

What strategies can I use to organize my thesis?

Think about your topic and purpose in light of the patterns of organization/modes of thinking:

- Cause & Effect
- Comparison & Contrast
- Problem & Solution
- Classification & Division
- Illustration
- Description
- Narration
- Process
- Definition

Your thesis may also be expressive (relate to personal experience), exploratory (examine an issue), explanatory (discuss a concept), or persuasive (argue a point).

Why should my thesis statement be specific?

A good thesis should show exactly what the thesis should show

References:

Aaron, J. E. (2004). *The Little, Brown compact handbook* (5th ed.). New York: Pearson Longman.

Ruskiewicz, J., Hairston, M. & Seward, D. E. (2002). *SF writer* (2nd ed.). New York: Longman.

Thesis statement. <http://essayinfo.com/basics/thesis.php>