



Generating a Thesis Statement

Working with my essential question and analyzing the information that I have gathered through research, I will be drafting a preliminary/working thesis.

What is a thesis?

- Declares what I believe and what I intend to prove.
- Focuses my search for information.
- Expresses an original thought, perspective, or belief on an issue.
- Organizes a position and the evidence needed to defend this stance.

It is not:

- A simple retelling of facts.
- A generalized statement that requires no supporting evidence.
- A vague and unclear statement.
- A statement that simply expresses my opinion (“I believe,” “I think”).

Characteristics of a good thesis:

- Is contestable, proposes an arguable point with which others can reasonably disagree.
- Takes a stand and justifies the discussion I will present.
- Tackles a topic that could be adequately covered in the format of the research project.
- Is specific and focused.
- Clearly asserts my conclusion based on evidence.
- Provides the reader with a lens to guide them through my work.
- Anticipates and refutes the counter-arguments.
- Moves beyond information or ideas that everyone already knows.

Simple equations for a thesis might look something like this:

Specific topic + Attitude/angle/argument = **THESIS**

What you plan to argue + How you plan to argue it = **THESIS**

Thesis Perspective... Look at It This Way (Complete the handout now)

My thesis statement is: