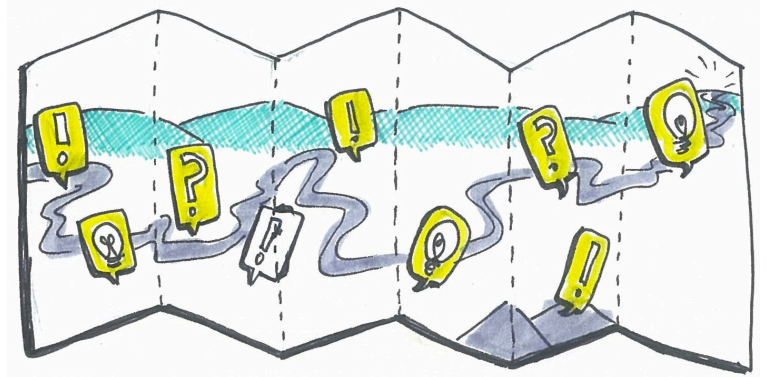


How to Write a Thesis Statement in Three Easy Steps

What is a Thesis Statement?

A thesis statement is the main argument of your essay. It is the single most important sentence in your essay, explaining to your reader the reason why you wrote the essay and the order of your paragraphs in the essay. Think of it like a road map, with the final destination clearly marked.



STEP ONE: Create a question about your topic.

e.g.) General Question: How has your change to Canada affected Canada?

Specific Question: *Did the development of the Canadian railway change Canada for the better, and why?*

STEP TWO: Answer your question and find reasons (try to think of at least three reasons).

e.g.) The railway changed Canada for the better because:

- the change was created to improve transportation and movement of goods and people between the colonies (*Describe the change*)
- it was beneficial because increased communication between the two coasts (*Make your argument for good or bad*)
- it's long-term effects were that it connected our provinces/ colonies into one nation (*Describe the effects*)

STEP THREE: Putting it all together.

You can think of your thesis statement as a formula:

What you plan to argue + How you plan to argue it = Thesis Statement

e.g.) *The development of the railway changed Canada for the better because it improved transportation of goods and people, allowed for communication across vast distances, and connected our country into the great nation it is today.*

Making Connections:

Does the rest of your essay support your thesis? Sometimes you can write your whole essay and realize that it has nothing to do with the thesis you wrote earlier. That's okay. You either have to change your whole paper to fit your thesis, or modify your thesis to fit your paper. As long as you have a strong, cohesive essay in the end, it doesn't matter what order you write things in.

Examples:

Example 1:

Horror movies.

This is too vague. What about horror movies?

Many people object to today's violent horror movies.

Why? What do they object to? Why should we care?

Despite their high-tech special effects, today's graphically violent horror movies do not convey the creative use of cinematography or the emotional impact that we saw in the classic horror films of the 1940s and 1950s.

This is good because it tells the reader that you plan to address the differences between modern and classic horror films by looking at the cinematography and the emotional impact of various movies.

Example 2:

Women's rights are great.

Why are they great?

Women's rights are great because they help women.

This is better, but how do they help women? Why makes them so great?

The fight for women's rights during the 19th century in Canada developed out of women's entry into the working world, and were beneficial because they helped women to develop equality in wages and working conditions.

This is good because it gives specific details as to how women's rights developed and the positive effects they had on Canadian women.