

Writing a Good Thesis Sentence

A good thesis is perhaps the most important element of a well organized essay, paper, or speech. So, let's look at it!

Basically a thesis sentence is the main idea of your paper boiled down into one arguable, declarative, simple sentence.

Now, let's examine that definition one element at a time.

The main idea of your paper...

Okay, the main idea is the big picture, your overall point. What do you want the reader to remember?

Boiled down...

You don't have to include all the details in this one sentence. It should hint at the structure of your paper, but save some of the information for later.

Just to let you know, though, some Professors do appreciate forecast statements. These are clues of the individual points you are later going to use to back up your thesis.

One...sentence.

Yes, ONE, in most cases. Use your best judgment.

Arguable

You need to go out onto a limb here. Your thesis is supposed to express an opinion. Later you can back it up.

Declarative

No questions. Be strong. Just say it.

Simple sentence

A good essay, paper, or speech has only one central idea. More than one idea causes confusion and logical leaps. Therefore, a good thesis sentence should be able to express that idea in a simple sentence. Stated quite simply, you only get one subject.

Caution: These are suggestions that, in some cases, can be altered for the sake of creativity. Consider the assignment and your own objectives.