Thesis Statements

Your thesis is a good sign of whether your paper is worth reading. Although it sometimes gets buried underneath deadlines and grades and other reasons, here’s the truth: We write in order to be read. In academic essays especially, part of that purpose is established with the thesis statement. Often the last 1-2 sentences of your introduction, your thesis statement communicates the direction of your paper—its argument, position/stance. When written well, it focuses your readers on what they’re about to read and guides their understanding along the way.

How should my thesis statement be?

Your thesis statement is the North Star. It shows the way the essay will go. For that reason, make it shine by writing a thesis statement that is clear, specific, interesting, debatable, relevant, compelling, original, focused, etc.

Building a thesis statement

What can a thesis statement communicate?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic or Subject Matter</th>
<th>Comment or Claim; Answers to the “So What?” About the Topic</th>
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| Through the use of language and rhetorical devices in his “I Have a Dream” speech, Martin Luther King, Jr., strategically appeals to the audience’s emotions and values to inspire a collective call for racial justice and equality. | Readers will expect you to:  
- Identify and analyze King’s language and rhetorical devices  
- Explain how he uses his language to inspire the audience |
| The rise of the internet has had a transformative effect on global communication, revolutionizing the way people exchange information and interact with one another. | Readers will expect you to:  
- Explain how the internet has transformed global communication |
| The government should enact stricter gun control measures, including universal background checks and a ban on assault weapons, in order to reduce gun violence and promote public safety. | Readers will expect you to:  
- Provide evidence supporting how stricter measures will reduce gun violence and improve safety |