

Thesis Statement Creator:

Directions: This paper explains the different parts to a thesis statement and helps you create your own.

Question: Write the question you have been assigned or the prompt you are going to answer with your essay in the box below. This can be what you are trying to prove in your paper.

1. The Topic

The "topic" of your essay is the general category your essay is about. Either write the topic your teacher has assigned or the topic you have chosen in the space provided. What do you have an opinion about this social issue?

Type the topic of your essay in the box below.

2. The Position

What is one thing about your topic that you believe to be true, and that you wish to argue?
You may already have a "position" in mind, or you may just have a general topic you know you wish to work with.

If you do not yet have a position, making a cluster or a map with your topic in the center is a good way to help yourself find a position. Another good way is to begin a free write, "I'm supposed to write a research paper about _____ . . ." and see where it takes you.

However you get there, write a short statement describing your position in the space below.

Write your position in the space below.

3. The Qualification

Is what you say always true always?

Are there exceptions?

Are there good reasons why your position may have a down side?

How can you make your position have a reality check?

What general reasons why your position may have problems can you admit up front?

To make absolute statements usually causes your essay's thesis to seem foolishly simplistic. Get real!

Here's a trick: begin your qualification with a word like "although" or "It is true that. . ." Don't worry if it's not a complete sentence.

Program's Example Qualification: Although schools of over a thousand students have flourished in America. . .

Write your qualification in the space below.

4. The Reason

In general why do you believe your position to be correct in spite of your qualification?

What is the over all good to be gained by agreeing with your position?

This is a general statement; your specific reasons will follow in the body of your essay.

Write your reason in the space below.

5. Put them all together.

In one or two sentences, present your thesis, including a qualification, a reason, and a position.

The classic, traditional way of combining is to first present your qualification. This immediately demonstrates your interest in accuracy. Then present your general reason which demonstrates your thinking process, and finally the punch line--your position.

Edit your thesis statement in the box above so that the parts of the thesis flow smoothly, check for proper grammar and standard spelling.