**Creating Your Thesis Statement**

Once you have chosen a topic and generated a list of ideas to discuss in an essay, you have to create your thesis statement.

***What is a Thesis Statement?***   
A thesis statement expresses your opinion about a topic. It is the basis of the introductory paragraph of your essay.   
· It should be a single complete sentence.   
· You must be sure you can support the opinion in your thesis.

**Thesis Rules**   
A thesis statement should:   
· Be a statement, never be an open-ended question   
· Be limited to mentioning only those points you plan to discuss in your essay   
· Never be so broad that it’s difficult to discuss all relevant information   
· Only present one specific idea; not multiple ideas   
· Not contain two conflicting ideas

* take on a subject upon which reasonable people could disagree , i.e. can’t state a fact
* deal with a subject that can be adequately treated given the nature of the assignment
* assert your conclusions about a subject
* takes some sort of stand or position
* it offers an interpretation

**How to write a thesis statement**   
To create a thesis statement simply follow this formula:

TOPIC + OPINION = THESIS STATEMENT

Examples:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **TOPIC** | **+** | **OPINION** | **=** | **THESIS STATEMENT** |
| Animals | + | Dogs make better pets than cats | = | When it comes to animals, dogs make better pets than cats. |
| Movies and emotions | + | Titanic ignited many emotions | = | The movie "Titanic" ignited many emotions in an audience. |
| Gangs and identity in the story  "On the Sidewalk Bleeding". | + | The boy lost his personal identity and was only seen as a gang member. | = | In the story "On the Sidewalk Bleeding", the boy loses his identity and is only recognized as a gang member. |



**How to Write a Thesis Statement**. A good thesis statement is able to capture the essential details of any written article despite being just one sentence. It should be able to [answer](http://tipsforresearchpapersandessays.blogspot.com/2009/01/how-to-write-thesis-statement.html) most of the four "W's" and the "H" whenever applicable: *who*, *what*, *when*, *where*, and *how*. If you already know how to write a thesis statement, you should know by now that it also oftentimes comes in the form of "X is Y because Z", where "X" is your main subject, where "Y" describes your main subject, and where "Z" provides the reasons about the description. For example, "Writing a thesis statement is [easy](http://tipsforresearchpapersandessays.blogspot.com/2009/01/how-to-write-thesis-statement.html) because I understand how to write one". Here are a few more tips on how to write a thesis statement.

* *Think about who or what the subject of your essay will be*. Is it about a famous celebrity? Is it about a recent event? Is it about an observed behavior or a trending practice? Your answers to these questions and other similar ones will tell you who or what is the subject of your essay. This will be your "X".
* *Describe the subject of your essay*. Whatever your subject is, provide a brief but concise description of your subject. If your subject is a famous celebrity, provide a succinct description of the person. If it is a recent event or a social trend, do the same. Typical descriptions include but are not limited to: good or bad, moral or immoral, and acceptable or unacceptable. In any case, your description should have some "value". This will be your "Y".
* *State the reason why your description is valid*. Your main reason for describing your subject in the way you have chosen will be your "Z". If, for instance, you say that "Euthanasia is acceptable," state the reason why, as in "Euthanasia is acceptable *because it is a dignified way of putting an end to someone's life*". The reason that you will give should directly correlate with or should be relevant to your subject and your description. Otherwise, your thesis statement will appear weak and devoid of substance.

Remember that your thesis statement should not be a factual statement but a declarative statement that can be argued. Otherwise, using a factual statement for your thesis statement leaves no room for intellectual discourse since a factual statement is generally accepted and is most likely proven to be true. If you know how to write a thesis sentence, you can be at least sure that you will be able to write a topic that you can argue.

Source: <http://tipsforresearchpapersandessays.blogspot.com/2009/01/how-to-write-thesis-statement.html>