

The thesis statement is often an intimidating part of writing. No fear, we are here to help!

What is a thesis statement?

The goal is to write one sentence that encapsulates the entire purpose of your essay. It is the main thrust or idea of the paper. Every point made in the paper should refer to the thesis statement; generally, your thesis statement should be placed as the last sentence of your introduction.

Writing your thesis statement

→What is the subject of my paper?

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→What claim do you make? This is something specific and significant about your subject.

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→What is your purpose for writing?

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My thesis statement:

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Once you finish your paper, complete this checklist:

- Does the subject of the thesis statement properly capture the subject of my paper?
- Does my thesis statement pass the “So what?” test? If your reader does not see the significance of your subject, you may need to strengthen your claim.
- When you review the information contained in your paper, check to see if your thesis statement should be more specific or if you need to narrow your focus.
- Is your thesis statement cohesive? Each word must contribute to the main idea.

Example:

As displayed in John’s Gospel, the Holy Spirit exists to glorify God; he assumes many functions, including regenerating life, convicting the world of truth, providing comfort to his people, and revealing Christ’s righteousness.

(Subject: The Holy Spirit in John’s Gospel. Claim: he exists to glorify God and assumes many functions)