

Writing Thesis Statements

Before one is able to write an effective thesis statement, it is necessary that it is clearly understood what a thesis statement is, the purpose of a thesis statement, and finally how it is effectively used.

What is a thesis statement?

-A thesis is a definite statement that clearly states the objective that will be discussed, demonstrated, and defended in a paper. It should be positive and concise. It is usually the very first sentence in the introductory paragraph or it is the last.

What is the purpose of a thesis statement?

-The thesis statement is like a road map. It helps to indicate or direct the flow and order of points which will be discussed in a paper. It helps to clear up any confusion or misunderstanding about the writer's stand on the issue and also gives the reader an idea of what they can expect in the paper.

How is the thesis statement used effectively?

-If you were to write a paper discussing the issue of drunk driving, and you felt that drunk drivers should be punished because they are dangerous, irresponsible, and bad examples, an effective thesis statement might be:

People who drive under the influence of alcohol should be punished because they are dangerous, irresponsible, and bad examples for other drivers.

Comment: The main argument or issue of the paper is clearly stated.

Comment: The purpose for the argument is clearly defined and the points to be discussed are stated.

Here are some other topics that may be used to practice writing thesis statements:

- What makes a person successful?
- What are children's responsibilities to their parents?
- Who is the celebrity you respect the most? Why?