

Thesis Statement Checklist

Before Writing My Thesis Statement

- I am aware of my audience and purpose.
Audience: _____
Purpose: _____
 - I have formed a question based on my topic and I have a logical answer I can support.
Topic: _____
Question: _____
My Answer/Opinion: _____
 - I have researched both sides of the topic.
The opposition's view: _____
 - There is enough evidence to prove my point with multiple supporting ideas.
 - I have approached the topic fairly and without bias. I haven't let my personal beliefs interfere with the facts.
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Writing My Thesis Statement

- I have written a trial thesis statement based on the information from "Before Writing My Thesis Statement."
My trial thesis statement: (1) _____
(2) _____
(3) _____
 - My thesis statement is limited to **one** main idea.
My one main idea: _____
 - My thesis statement is short, simple, and clear.
 - My thesis statement is a single declarative sentence with no qualifiers (might, maybe, perhaps, probably, kind of, really, most, I think, etc.)
 - Do I answer the question from my topic clearly?
 - My thesis is specific and can't be misinterpreted.
 - Does my thesis pass the "So what?" test? If the reader's first response is, "So . . . what's your point?" or "So what—who cares?" then I need to clarify, to forge a relationship, or to connect to a larger issue.
 - My thesis statement is debatable or informative.
 - My thesis statement indicates the direction of my argument or stance on the topic.
 - I have written my revised thesis statement based on the information from "Writing My Thesis Statement."
My thesis statement: _____

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Final Evaluation of My Thesis Statement—Done After the Rough Draft

- My position on the topic has been clearly defended.
- My essay supports my thesis specifically and without wandering—every supporting paragraph clearly ties back to my thesis.
- After the rough draft, I have made necessary changes to my thesis.
My final thesis statement: _____
