



Palm Beach Atlantic University
Center for Writing Excellence

IMPORTANCE OF WRITING A THESIS STATEMENT

What is a Thesis Statement?

- A thesis statement is a summary sentence, usually placed within the introductory paragraph, that carefully lays out the main point or claim in an academic paper. This statement is developed and supported throughout the essay.

The Importance of a Thesis Statement

- The thesis statement lays out the main point and, when delivered clearly and effectively, sets the tone for the essay. The thesis statement can inform the reader immediately of the author's intent and is extremely important for establishing credibility. A weak thesis statement (or the absence of one) can convince the reader that the speaker does not understand fully the subject which he/she is writing about and that the paper lacks organization and focus.

Tips for Forming a Thesis Statement

- The formation of a thesis statement should begin with the research process. As the scholar researches, he/she should be searching for a theme or point, which could serve as the guiding force for the paper being written.
- The main theme or point should be compressed into a single sentence. All supporting points and evidence should be expressed throughout the body of the paper. It is common for the thesis statement to become burdened with extra details that are relevant, but which could be better expressed in the paragraphs that follow the introduction.
- The more succinct and concise the thesis statement, the better. The reader should not have to face confusion caused by overly flowery language, excess points, or supporting details.
- It is common for the thesis statement to evolve throughout the research, and even the writing process itself. The more one comes to understand a subject, the more informed his/her opinion becomes.