



# Thesis Statements



# A Note on Writing Purpose

Different types of writing have different purposes. The 3 main purposes are Writing to Inform, Writing to Entertain, and Writing to Persuade.

For example, Documentaries intend to inform viewers about a topic. Comedy intends to make viewers feel entertained and laugh.

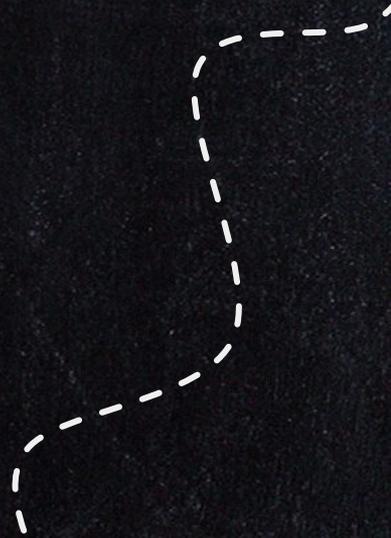
The main purpose of an essay is to convince your reader of an idea. Because you want to convince them, it is important to make that idea clear right away.

This week, we're going to go over some ways you can accomplish this in your writing.



# How to Argue Like a Lawyer

Because we're trying to convince our readers, it's a good idea to imagine yourself as a lawyer arguing a court case.



## Things Lawyers Do:

- ★ Begin with an opening statement which tells the court what they plan to argue. (guilty or not guilty).
- ★ Use evidence throughout the case to prove their ideas.
- ★ Tell the jury how the evidence proves their points.
- ★ End with a closing statement which summarizes their overall points and tells the jury what to do now.

## Things Essay writers do:

- ★ Begin with an opening statement which tells their readers what they plan to argue. (thesis statement).
- ★ Use evidence throughout the essay to prove their ideas
- ★ Tells the reader how the evidence proves their points.
- ★ End with a conclusion which summarizes their overall points and tells the reader what to do now.



# Thesis Statements

A thesis statement is the sentence in your introduction paragraph which tells your reader what you plan to argue in your essay.

Thesis statements **cannot** be:

1. A question
2. A fact

This is because a question doesn't tell your reader what side you are on and a fact is not something that is arguable. It is just true.

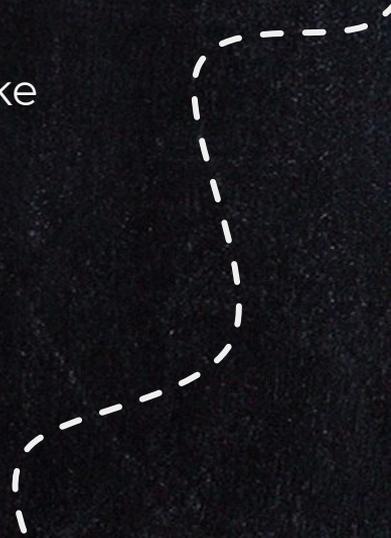
So, a Thesis Statement **must** be a statement, and it must be debatable.



There are lots of different kinds of thesis statements, but we're going to look at 5 types.



1. The "Should" thesis
2. The "Effect" thesis
3. The "Problem - Solution" thesis
4. The "People think this, but they're wrong because it's actually like this" thesis
5. The "Personal Lesson" thesis



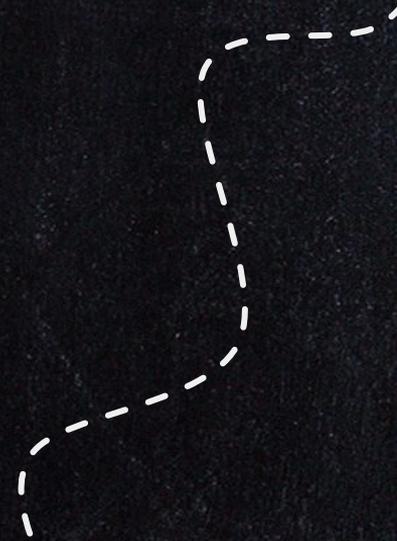
# The “Should” Thesis

Tells the reader your opinion about a topic

For example:

Marijuana should be decriminalized.

Schools should not have uniforms.

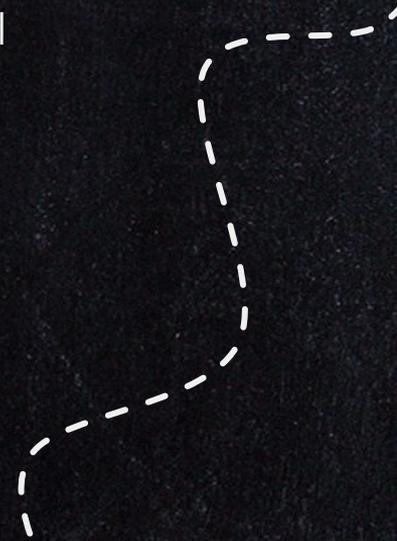


# The “Effect” Thesis

Tells your reader that you think something has either a negative or positive effect on something else.

For Example:

Video Games have a positive effect on teenagers’ emotional health.

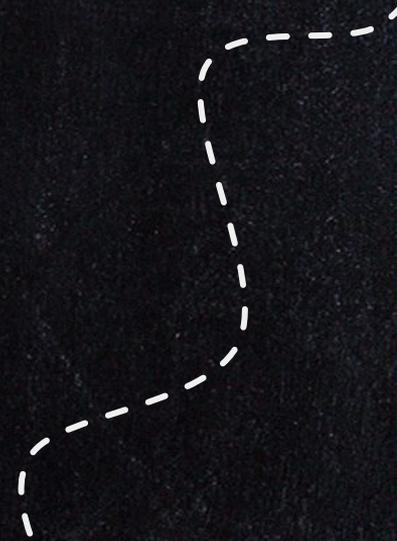


# The “Problem-Solution” Thesis

Tells your reader about a problem you are passionate about and offers some solutions to help reduce this problem.  
(you could think of this one as a combination of the should and effect thesis).

For Example:

Censoring literature is a problem because it has a negative effect on children’s learning and growth, so we should end censorship in elementary schools.



# The “People think this, but they’re wrong because it’s actually like this” Thesis

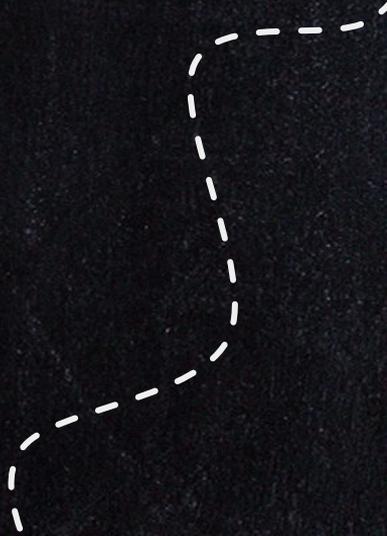


Tells the reader that you’re responding to a popular belief and you disagree.



For Example:

People think that video games make children violent, but actually they can be a good outlet for their aggression.



# The “Lesson” Thesis

Tells your reader an idea, lesson, or belief you have about an experience usually through story format or personal narrative.



One way to think about this kind of thesis is like this:

My experience with \_\_\_\_\_ helped me with \_\_\_\_\_

Or

My experience with \_\_\_\_\_ taught me \_\_\_\_\_

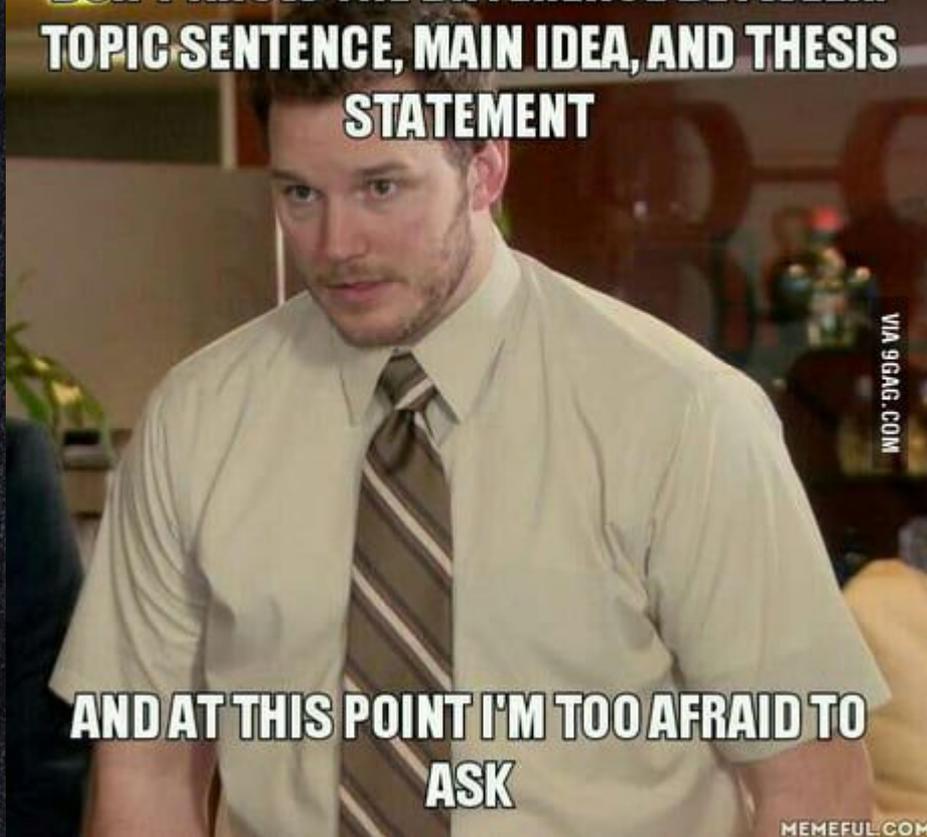


For Example:

Growing up, I loved monster stories because they helped me cope with grief and abuse.



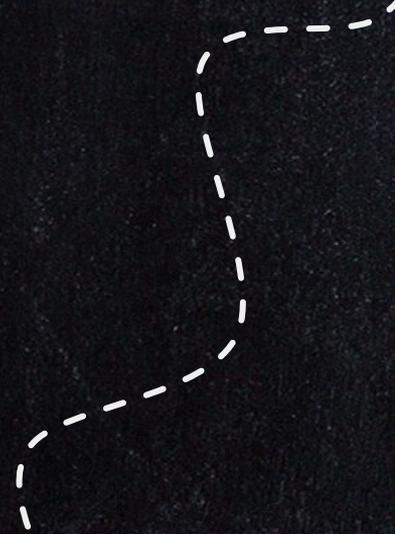
**DON'T KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN:  
TOPIC SENTENCE, MAIN IDEA, AND THESIS  
STATEMENT**



VIA 9GAG.COM

**AND AT THIS POINT I'M TOO AFRAID TO  
ASK**

MEMEFUL.COM



# Your Mission



1. Choose 2 Types of Thesis Statement from the list of 5 above.
2. Think about your Reflective Essay “Who Am I [as a Writer]?”
3. Write 2 Different Types of Thesis Statements based on your ideas expressed in your essay.
4. For example, many of you could write a **“Lesson” Thesis** based on your ideas. Like this: “I hated writing until I met my high school teacher Mr. Words, then he taught me that writing can be a tool to process my emotions.” Or Like this: “My experience with writing has taught me that communication is all about connecting.”



# Your Mission Continued

5. Write up the two different types of Thesis Statements on an MLA formatted page complete with proper heading, font, and 1 inch margins.

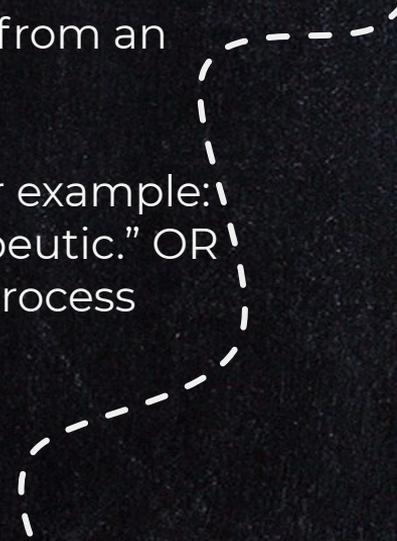


6. For each of the two different Thesis Statements, write three sentences that support your idea. Think deeply about your idea and consider what you could use to persuade someone else. Your supports can be your personal experience. A fact or statistic. A scene from a film or book. A quote from an expert. An illustration. A poem, or a song.



7. Remember, just write three sentences - one for each support. For example: "James W. Pennebaker's research shows that writing can be therapeutic." OR "My experience writing about my confusing emotions helped me process them."

8. Then upload your work into the Dropbox provided,



# Thanks!

Do you have any questions?

Email me!

[maureen.farrell-garcia@nyack.edu](mailto:maureen.farrell-garcia@nyack.edu)

Special thanks to Dee Flood  
Composition Professor and Tutor @  
LaGuardia College  
for the use of her ideas.

CREDITS: This presentation template was created by **Slidesgo**,  
including icons by **Flaticon**, and infographics & images by **Freepik**