Tips and Examples for Writing Thesis Statements

An **argumentative** paper makes a claim about a topic and justifies this claim with specific evidence. The claim could be an opinion, a policy proposal, an evaluation, a cause-and-effect statement, or an interpretation. The goal of the argumentative paper is to convince the audience that the claim is true based on the evidence provided.

1. Your thesis statement should be specific—it should cover only what you will discuss in your paper and should be supported with specific evidence.

2. The thesis statement usually appears at the end of the first paragraph of a paper.

3. Your topic may change as you write, so you may need to revise your thesis statement to reflect exactly what you have discussed in the paper.

**Thesis Statement Example**

Example of an argumentative thesis statement:

High school graduates should be required to take a year off to pursue community service projects before entering college in order to increase their maturity and global awareness.

The paper that follows should:

- present an argument and give evidence to support the claim that students should pursue community projects before entering college

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