ENGLISH, LITERACY, AND COMMUNICATION

Thesis statements

Difficulty level: Advanced

English, Literacy, and Communication

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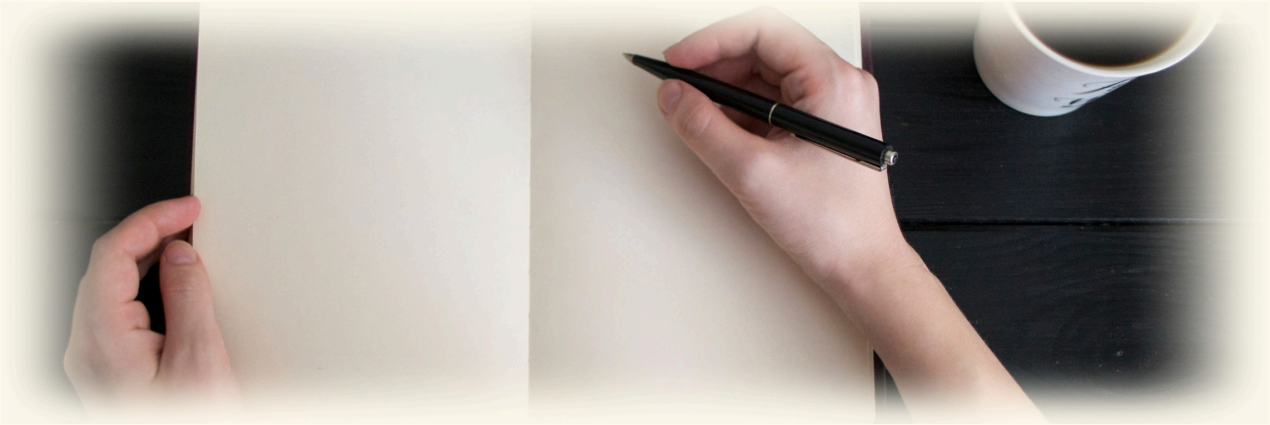
Overview of the concept

This is how you state the main claim of an essay in one or two clear sentences, like telling your reader the argument up front, so they know what to expect. A thesis is not a topic, it is a claim you will argue for, and the rest of the essay has to support it. Putting it at the start gives the reader a map, so they can follow your argument instead of wondering where it is going. That is what turns a pile of paragraphs into an essay with a clear point.



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Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q Is this a good thesis? 'School should start later because students need more sleep to learn well.'

SOLUTION

Ask: does it state a clear position? Yes, school should start later.

Does it give a reason? Yes, sleep helps learning.

So yes, it is a good thesis.

EXAMPLE 2

Q Is this a good thesis? 'This essay is about school.'

SOLUTION

Ask: does it state a position? No, it only names a topic.

Does it give a reason? No.

So no, it is too vague to be a thesis.

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Practice questions

1 Is this a good thesis? Recycling helps the planet by saving resources.

- **A** Yes
- **B** No

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2 Which is the strongest thesis about protecting trees?

- **A** Trees should be protected because they clean the air and give homes to animals.
- **B** This essay is about trees.
- **C** Trees are tall and green.

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3 **Would this work as a thesis? Exercise should be daily because it improves health and focus.**

A Yes

B No

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4 **Which is the stronger thesis for an argument essay?**

A (a) I like dogs.

B (b) Dogs make good pets because they are loyal and playful.

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5 **Does this thesis take a stand? Libraries deserve funding because they serve the whole community.**

- **A** Yes
- **B** No

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6 **Which is the strongest thesis about homework?**

- **A** Homework should be shorter because students need time to rest and play.
- **B** Homework is a topic.
- **C** Homework is given every day.

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7 **Is this a good thesis? Reading should be daily because it builds knowledge.**

- **A** Yes
- **B** No

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8 **Which is the stronger thesis for an argument essay?**

- **A** (a) This paper will talk about food.
- **B** (b) Schools should serve healthy food because it helps students learn.

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9

Judge this thesis: Saving money is wise because it prepares you for emergencies. Is it good?

A Yes

B No

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Which is the strongest thesis about protecting bees?

A Bees should be protected because they pollinate the food we eat.

B Bees are insects.

C Bees can sting people.

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ANSWER KEY

1. Yes

2. Trees should be protected because they clean the air and give homes to animals.

3. Yes

4. (b) Dogs make good pets because they are loyal and playful.

5. Yes

6. Homework should be shorter because students need time to rest and play.

7. Yes

8. (b) Schools should serve healthy food because it helps students learn.

9. Yes

10. Bees should be protected because they pollinate the food we eat.

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