



Colegio Las Cumbres

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ASIGNATURA: Writing Skills

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CONTENIDO NODAL: *OPINION and ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAYS*

TRIMESTRE: 3ro

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Review notes:

What's in a Thesis or thesis statement?

Coming up with a strong thesis can be one of the hardest parts of writing a paper, and it can be difficult to think of exactly what you want say to get your best point across. So let's break it down.

The definition of a thesis: *It is the main idea of a piece of writing. It presents the author's assertion (statement or declaration) or claim (the critical argument). The effectiveness of a presentation is often based on how well the writer presents, develops, and supports the thesis. In other words, **your thesis sums up in a sentence or two what exactly your whole essay is trying to communicate to the reader.***

Your thesis should include the topic you are going to discuss in the body paragraphs. Secondly, a sign of more mature writing is the absence of direct statements of the writer's intent. In other words, **DO NOT** use statements like "In this essay I will prove..." or "This essay will discuss..." **Don't announce what you want to say, just say it!**

A thesis statement is like a position statement. Ask yourself: "what is my general point?"

Here is an example.

Prompt: In John Steinbeck's novel *The Pearl*, analyze the reasons why Kino and his family suffered so much throughout the novel. Decide on a main reason/theme for their suffering, and support your thesis with examples from the text.

Example thesis: "In John Steinbeck's novel *The Pearl*, the biggest reason Kino and his family suffered so much was due to Kino's increased greed after finding the pearl, which caused him to become obsessed with wealth, act violent, and lead to the eventual destruction of his family.

Some key points

Your thesis statement is typically made at the end of the first paragraph of your essay.

Don't be afraid to revise your thesis as you write your paper. Sometimes as you collect information or work further on your paper, your topics, views, etc. may change which is typically fine; just be sure to update your thesis statement so that it is cohesive with the rest of your paper.

Know what kind of paper you're writing. This will help you develop what kind of thesis statement you will be developing also.

Depending on what type of paper you are writing, your thesis statements will not always be written the same way. For this reason, here are some examples of some common types of essays and sample thesis statements

The Argumentative Paper

These essays make a claim about a topic, then justifies that 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.

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

1. Practice Thesis Statements

These practices will help you get the basic set-up for writing thesis statements. The main idea is to look at the topic and the writer's point, and come up with a thesis statement of your own. For these practices your thesis statements can be 1-2 (or 3) sentences long. Try to be concise *(5 examples provided from "Writing for Life" by D.J. Henry) The first one is done as an example.

1. **Topic:** workplace aggression

Writer's point: is on the rise and takes on several forms of behavior

Thesis Statement (example): *In the past few years, aggression in the workplace has shown a rising trend as well as taken on several forms of behavior*

2. **Topic:** cardiovascular disease

Writer's point: certain factors are unavoidable, others can be influenced through our behavior.

Thesis Statement:

3. **Topic:** technology in the classroom

Writer's point: some potential drawbacks but highly effective as learning tool

Thesis Statement:

4. **Topic:** use of chat rooms and online discussion boards

Writer's point: five tips for effectiveness

Thesis Statement:

5. **Topic:** weight training machines and free weights

Writer's point: similarities and differences

Thesis Statement

2. Read the rubric below and write the essay in an appropriate style, following the corresponding layout and including varied linking words

High school graduates should pursue community service projects before entering college in order to increase their maturity and global awareness.

