Writing a Thesis Statement
Writing a Thesis Statement

• What is a thesis statement?

• How do I write an effective thesis statement?
  • Relevant to the assignment question
  • Analytical
  • Clear for the reader
What is a thesis statement?

What does a thesis statement do?
A thesis statement …

provides the direction and “roadmap”
of your paper in 1 - 2 sentences.

After reading your thesis statement, your reader should
be able to

• state the main point (argument) of your paper
• outline the major sections of your paper
A thesis statement ... is your concise answer (in 1 – 2 sentences) to the research question.
The Structure of a Thesis-Driven Paper

The introduction

- introduces your specific topic
- includes your thesis statement
The Structure of a Thesis-Driven Paper

The Introduction
- introduces the specific topic
- gives the reader your thesis statement

Step 1 / Section 1

Step 2 / Section 2
Example Thesis Statement

Throughout her career, Hahn Oberlander has connected built spaces with their natural environments by putting into action principles of sustainability and by creating landscape designs that connect the built space to the natural world.
Example Thesis Statement

Throughout her career, Hahn Oberlander has connected built spaces with their natural environments by putting into action principles of sustainability and by creating landscape designs that connect the built space to the natural world.

What main point will the essay writer show in the paper?
Throughout her career, Hahn Oberlander has connected built spaces with their natural environments by putting into action principles of sustainability and by creating landscape designs that connect the built space to the natural world.

What main point will the essay writer show in the paper?
Example Thesis Statement

Throughout her career, Hahn Oberlander has connected built spaces with their natural environments by putting into action principles of sustainability and by creating landscape designs that connect the built space to the natural world.

2. How will the paper be organized? How will the writer show that Hahn Oberlander connects built spaces and their environments?
Example Thesis Statement

Throughout her career, Hahn Oberlander has connected built spaces with their natural environments by putting into action principles of sustainability and by creating landscape designs that connect the built space to the natural world.

2. How will the paper be organized? How will the writer show that Hahn Oberlander connects built spaces and their environments?
How do I get to an effective thesis statement?

An Analysis of the Practice of Evacuating Pregnant Women from their Home Communities in Canada

Over the past few decades in Canada, many women have not given birth in their home communities. On the contrary, Canada has a tradition of evacuating women who live in some rural communities in the final month of their pregnancies. The practice of evacuating pregnant women took firm hold in the 1970s when pregnant women were routinely moved from their northern homes to hospitals in the south to give birth (Van Wagner et al., 2007). While it might seem that this practice occurred only decades ago, evacuation continued into the 2000s in some Canadian communities. In Bella Bella / Waglisla, a First Nations community in British Columbia, the practice of evacuating women increased in the early 2000s (Kornelsen et al., 2011). Evacuating pregnant women from their home communities is problematic as it results in ...

References

dynamics of birth outside their community for rural First N
Aboriginal Health, 7(1), 55-64.

community: Midwifery in the Inuit villages of Nunavik, Canada.

Women’s Health, 52(4), 384-391. https://doi.org/doi:
org.urn:isbn:10.1016/j.jmwh.2007.03.025
1. Know your research question:

Study your assignment instructions
2. Read to construct an answer to your question

- Read & Re-read
- Key Texts
- Write & Revise
2. Read and take notes


p. 14 To restore the area around the construction site of the Legislative Building, plants were selected from the surrounding area. Some seeds were taken to Vancouver and stored and cared for until the building was completed and the plants could be re-planted in the North. This also allowed Hahn and her associates to create a design plan such that the area immediately surrounding the building would seamlessly flow into the larger area.

p. 14 In the article, Hahn, Whitelaw and Antonetti call this process “invisible mending” because this process restored the original landscape after construction.

p. 14 The peat bog surrounding the building, however, could not be restored in the same way. More invasive measures were taken.

Read actively:
What does this source tell me that can contribute to my paper?
3. Write out your answer to the research question

• Don’t worry about using formal language.
• Focus on the clarity of your thinking.

Research Question:

My Answer (1 – 2 sentences):

After reading and thinking about this question, my understanding is that _______________. The main reasons to support this are __________ and _____________. 
3. Write out your answer to the research question

My Answer (1 – 2 sentences):

After reading and thinking about this question, my understanding is that _______________. The main reasons to support this are ____________ and ________________.
4. Revise your draft.
4. Revise your draft.

- Adjust your thesis statement as you write.
- Periodically check back with your assignment guidelines to make sure you’re on track with the question.
- Double-check your thesis statement at the end of your writing process.
The thesis statement and outline are developed together in a process of reading, planning, writing, and revising.
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