

WHAT IS A THESIS?

Your essay must contain a “thesis sentence” – a single sentence in which you give your position on the topic of your essay.
It is the focus of your paper.

A Thesis Predicts, Restricts, Obligates

A good thesis does three things: it predicts, restricts and obligates you, the writer.

It **predicts** – You must tell your reader what the essay is about.

It **restricts** – You should only write about what is related to your thesis.

Every sentence must clearly and directly relate to your thesis sentence.

It **obligates** – You are obligated to treat the topic thoroughly in your essay.

You must give specific, detailed examples to prove your thesis.

Think It Through and Revise

- After thoroughly thinking about your topic, write your thesis sentence.

You will be less likely to stray from your topic if the purpose of your writing assignment is clearly defined in the thesis sentence.

Your assignment will be easier to organize if you complete your thesis sentence before writing anything else.

- You will probably need to rethink and rewrite your thesis sentences many times.

Even though this sounds boring and time-consuming, in the long run it will serve you well. If you have a well-written thesis and a good outline, the rest of the paper will be much easier to write.

Where Do I Put It?

Put the thesis sentence in your first, or introductory, paragraph.

Write your introduction so that it focuses your reader’s attention on your thesis.

The last sentence of the first paragraph is a good place to put your thesis.

