How To Write a Thesis Statement In Less Than 30 Minutes!

REALISTIC TECHNIQUES & EXERCISES THAT WILL GENERATE A THESIS STATEMENT FROM YOUR FINGER TIPS WITHIN 30 MINUTES OF READING THIS GUIDE

➢ Professor talks about the Big Don’ts
➢ Telling a Strong Thesis Statement from a weak one
➢ 5 ranges of Exercises on Building a Thesis Statement
➢ How to use the correct English for your Thesis Statement

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Foreword

This E book is meant for those first time, struggling students who are looking for resources that will assist in structuring their thesis statements and guide them on the Dos and Don’ts, with examples, exercises and precise information as to what the substance of a thesis statement should consist of as the responsibility of being a window to the whole thesis research.

At Educational Writing, we strive hard and dedicatedly to providing students with the best resources that they deserve. We believe in quality work and simultaneously also believe in providing back to the society and the many students because of whom we stand sturdy. This E book was therefore designed to provide students with the direction, tips and tricks that are the only things they need at times to move forward.

This guide is broken into three sections: an insight has been provided by Jane Smith, Arts and Literature Professor at a reputable university in Chicago, Illinois; pieces of helpful advices were provided by Michael Brown, Thesis Supervisor and Lecturer at a reputable university in Miami, Florida; real suggestions that work by Christopher Moseby, a hard-working psychology student at a reputable university in New Jersey.

This was done to provide you with a range of perceptions when it comes to thesis statement and research, so that you, the student understands how your thesis statement should be able to justify itself as the window to your thesis research than the fancy riddle to the rest of your thesis research work.

Additionally, we have provided for you exercises in Section 6 of this E book. If you send us with your attempted answers filled in this section, our team of Academic Research Writers are available to providing you with Constructive Feedback. They are also currently providing help to thesis research students with their thesis statements - all free of charge.

Lastly, we hope that you can benefit from the contents of this E book and it can provide you with a range of exciting ideas and styles...

Best Wishes from Logo Design Consultant
Contents

1. Introduction
   a. What is a Thesis Statement
   b. Purpose of Thesis Statement

The Sensible Professor Writes...
2. How to Write a Thesis Statement
   a. My personal advice
   b. Determine what kind of paper you are writing
   c. Proficient vs. Advanced
3. The BIG Don’ts!
   a. What not to write in a Thesis Statement
   b. Social Psychology Student’s Thesis Statement Too Long
   c. English Literature Student’s Average Thesis Statement
   d. Engineering Student’s Winning Thesis Statement

The Annoyed Supervisor Writes...
4. How to use the correct English for your Thesis Statement
5. How to Tell a Strong Thesis Statement from a Weak One
   a. Taking a Stand
   b. Justifying Discussion
   c. Elaboration on One Main Idea
   d. Being Specific!
6. Now, let’s play & practice writing!
   a. Is it a thesis?
   b. Topic + Opinion = Thesis Statement
   c. Rewrite Opening paragraphs into Thesis Statements
   d. Identify Problems
   e. Complete the following thesis statements

The Hardworking Student Writes...
7. Make your Thesis Statement a success
8. Don’t be Anxious about what is to come

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Introduction

a. What is a Thesis Statement
There are 1000s of definitions across the web. But when I first learnt what a thesis statement is- I summarized into my journal ‘Thesis Statement: the one or two sentence that people look early in an essay to get the condensation of the argument and analysis that follows’. This easy definition is what I look towards every once in a while that I am doubtful of my Thesis Statement.

b. Purpose of Thesis Statement
Writing in high school and college often takes the form of persuasion to convince the reader that your point is interesting and logical in relation to the subject you are studying. It’s why they say writing is an art. It’s a skill that will stick with you once you’ve gotten the hang of it and practice regularly in your daily life.

Just like persuading your dad to let you borrow your car or you friend to spend time out with you, course assignments often ask you to make a persuasive case in writing. You are always required to convince the reader of a point of view through logical and emotional persuasion.

The persuasion that includes logical and emotional persuasion is called Academic Argument. After a brief introduction you state your point of view on the topic directly and often in one sentence... This sentence is the thesis statement, and it serves as a summary of the argument you’ll make in the rest of your paper.

The Sensible Professor Writes...

o How to Write a Thesis Statement
a. My Personal Advice
It is not as though the Professor does not realizes the immense pressure a student goes through with a direct and indirect approval from a range of people in the process of their thesis research. By direct I mean the approval from their supervisor, professors/committee members, and peers and by indirect I mean a student’s family, his neighbors, his friends, himself and also his future career!
Introduction

Between that chaos, a student is required to concentrate highly on what the main focus of his essay is.... If writing prompt is in the form of the question in your assigned topic, simply restate the question into a statement, and then set to creating a flow of paragraphs that support that statement.

The only way to stay calm is to worry little- work more. Persuasive pieces always begin with a thesis statement. This statement will be the main claim of your thesis research and so the position in which you will be basing an entire material’s worth of information and analysis for.

Developing a Powerful Thesis Statement is the heart of any thesis research and that is why I place so much importance on it. It is vital you get your thesis statement right because a weak statement to begin with, will only lead the student to frustration as he/she may only end up with an impossibly difficult time building an argument to support it.

b. Determine what kind of paper you are writing

Good composition of a Thesis Statement comes with good planning. My own experience says organization is the key- even in your Thesis Statement. In order to plan what you are proposing, remember that you need to acknowledge which style you will use. This is a must when it comes to Thesis Statements as it acts like a window to your Thesis Research.
c. Proficient vs. Advanced
Proficient: Inspires the reasonable reader to ask “How?” or “Why?”
Advanced: Inspires the reasonable reader to ask “How?” or “Why?” and to exclaim “Wow!” This thesis engages the student in challenging or provocative research and displays a level of thought that breaks new grounds!
A Powerful Thesis Statement of course makes the reader say Wow! Although seemingly simple, I wanted to mention this: Imagine if your thesis research cannot live up to the expectations it creates with your thesis statement. In that case it is the thesis research that is worth changing completely than the Thesis Statement. Your thesis research should not only be worthy of your committee’s time but your time too!

3. The BIG Don’ts!
a. What NOT to write in a Thesis Statement
In the quest for figuring what is important in a Thesis Statement, it is almost wise to read what is not important... what should be omitted... and most importantly what not to write in a Thesis Statement. Here are most universities’ tricks in determining a good thesis statement:
- It should NOT be an opinion statement only
When you state only opinions in your thesis statement, it sounds like the author is simply stating a viewpoint that may or may not be substantiated by evidence.
- It should NOT be a statement of fact only
When you state only facts in your thesis statement, it is unlikely that you will find it inspirational to debate over.
- It should not be vague
A vague thesis statement is often written by many students to encourage the reader to read further. That is a bad strategy as the condensation of your thesis statement should be able to tell the reader clearly what you are determined to prove.
- It should not be too detailed
A detailed thesis statement is like a bad TV commercial; if it doesn’t end within 2 minutes, the viewer loses interest involuntarily.
It should not be broad
If a thesis statement is too broad it is as good as the Topic Assigned to you—broad! It is necessary to be specific without being too detailed. Find that moderation

b. Social Psychology Student’s Thesis Statement Too Long

What has happened to the American male? For a long time, he seemed utterly confident in his manhood, sure of his masculine role in society, easy and definite in his sense of sexual identity. The frontiersmen of James Fenimore Cooper, for example, never had any concern about masculinity; they were men, and it did not occur to them to think twice about it. Even well into the twentieth century, the heroes of Dreiser, of Fitzgerald, of Hemingway remain men. But one begins to detect a new theme emerging in some of these authors, especially in Hemingway: the theme of the male hero increasingly preoccupied with proving his utility to himself. And by mid-century, the male role had plainly lost its rugged clarity of outline. Today men are more and more conscious of maleness not as a fact but as a problem. The ways by which American men afirm their masculinity are uncertain and obscure. There are multiplying signs, indeed, that something has gone badly wrong with the American male’s conception of himself.

Here is the first paragraph of Arthur Schlesinger, Jr.’s essay The Crisis of American Masculinity. Notice how everything drives the reader towards the last sentence and how that last sentence clearly signals what the rest of this essay is going to do... but in the midst of all that a typical professor will normally wonder... should a thesis statement be 11 lines long? Shouldn’t the reader quickly be able to grasp what the thesis is going to be about?

C. English Literature Student’s Average Thesis Statement

In Conrad’s Heart of Darkness, Marlow tells a bizarre tale of his encounter with Mr. Kurtz, a white man turned to satanic practices deep in the Congo’s interior. A strong bond between the two men leads Marlow to go against his personal values in order to protect Kurtz’s reputation. Why would Marlow side with such a man? To fully understand his alliance with Kurtz, one must look carefully at Marlow’s feelings about the enterprise at the outset and at the impact of several significant situations and two individuals he encounters before reaching Kurtz.
This example of thesis statement is fairly general and it does focus the idea. The writer promises a close look at selected features in the text in order to answer the question, "Why should Marlow side with such a man?" One problem missing here is that there are facts provided but there is little opinion as to what the writer aims to prove through his research. This thesis statement looks more like a summary of the novel or a review than a thesis statement to a research that the writer intends to carry out.

d. Engineering Student’s Winning Thesis Statement

The evolution of engineering education is influenced by many factors. While the accreditation process has been the most significant change agent in recent years in the United States, it is by no means the only one. New engineering methods, changing patterns of employment, new kinds of employers, the restructuring of industry, and globalization all have had an impact on how engineering education is structured and delivered. This paper describes some of the ways in which the education process is being modified in response.

This is a thesis statement written about engineering education. Although not 2-3 sentences long, this particular thesis statement can be deemed powerful. The reason: There is a sheer blend of facts and opinion, ending with what the reader will expect in the thesis paper. This is a perfect example of what we want in a thesis statement.
The Annoyed Supervisor Writes...

4. How to use the correct English for your Thesis Statement

Before I go on to elaborate on anything else, I’d like to place great emphasis on the use of Microsoft Word... Some students just don’t get it. They end up using all kinds of applications to format their thesis work, but the only reliable source universally known is Microsoft Word at the moment, please don’t try to be unique with your software as your grammatical errors and punctuation are correcting before you even submit in your research work.

This allows for the committee to believe in your research findings, as they understand that English not being the 1st language should not act as a constraint to students in providing findings. Following are some questions to consider in order to get your English right, when providing your supervisor with your thesis proposal/statement.

- Who is the audience you’re writing for?
  This is highly important as your audience should be able to perceive your work in good spirit, thus it being important that you write in the form of English that they are expecting to read or that will appeal to them.

- Is your thesis statement trying too hard to look fancy?
  This is true for most thesis statements I have come across. Your thesis statement is not a book’s summary or a preview to the rest of your paper, it is neither a fancy title nor a creative play of words- it is the core message you will be writing about.

- Your thesis statement should be coherent
  Here’s some more help. Write your thesis statement in a way that each sentence starts on a new line. Does it seem that between the two sentences, the second sentence is taking the first sentence a step further and not more than that? That is when you should pat your back and move to the third sentence and see the relation between the second and the third sentence the same way, and so forth.
If sentences do not look interrelated then create a sentence to go in the middle of the two sentences that will fill the gap and explain one idea in the sentence before giving a hint of the idea that will be explained in the next sentence. Make sure all your sentences interrelate with each other on the main idea while giving out information smoothly. Finally join all the sentences in the short paragraph. This is the secret to writing in correct English.

5. How to Tell a Strong Thesis Statement from a Weak One
Sometimes, when a student’s thinking is barred by pressure and stress, sometimes when he just can’t think straight because he has a jumble of other things circling his mind... he misses out on the obvious. Writing a thesis statement is the beginning of critical thinking... If you don’t know where you are heading, you could end up making plenty of mistakes. Following are checkpoints to a Powerful Thesis Statement; your thesis statement should cover all of them.

   a. Taking a Stand
   A thesis statement needs to have a firm opinion and not a delusion of two opposing ideas. It should not just announce whose side it is on, it should state strongly what it is going to qualify and support.

   b. Justifying Discussion
   Your thesis should be able to justify the discussion it places within the thesis statement with two or three ideas that will make the reader want to learn more.

   c. Elaboration on One Main Idea
   Even if the thesis research is about other ideas that are linked with each other, there needs to be one independent variable in the form of main idea that other ideas are dependently variable on.

   d. Being Specific!
   Your thesis statement is not a riddle that will solve the mystery in the thesis research... It should be a window into what your thesis research aims to prove exactly.
6. Now, let’s play & practice writing!

a. Is it a thesis?

I would like to become a chef when I finish school
Although both chefs and cooks can prepare fine meals, chefs differ from cooks in education, professional commitment, and artistry.

I enjoy white water rafting.
A first water rafting experience can challenge the body and spirit and transform an adolescent into an adult

Men are chauvinists.
Our American family structure encourages men to repress their true feelings, leaving them open to physical, psychological, and relationship difficulties.

Steroid abuse
Steroids, even those legally available, are addictive and should be banned from sports.

Hip hop is the best thing that has happened to music in twenty years
Though many people dismiss hip hop as offensive, hip hop music offers urban youth an important opportunity for artistic expression, and allows them to articulate the poetry of the street.

Many people object to today’s violent horror movies.
Despite their high-tech special effects, today’s graphically violent horror movies do not convey the creative use of cinematography or the emotional impact that we saw in the classic horror films of the 1940s and 50s.
7. Topic + Opinion = Thesis Statement

The first three are done to guide you, finish the rest of the exercise

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Opinion</th>
<th>Thesis Statement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animals</td>
<td>Dogs make better pets than cats</td>
<td>When it comes to animals, cats seem to make better pets than dogs as being passive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Movies and emotions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gangs and identity in the story</td>
<td>The boy lost his personal identity</td>
<td>In the story &quot;On the Sidewalk Bleeding&quot;, the boy loses his identity by his actions and is only recognized as a gang member.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;On the Sidewalk Bleeding&quot;</td>
<td>and was only seen as a gang member.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Value in the Recession</td>
<td>?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men and Women Tennis Players</td>
<td>?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Networking Effects</td>
<td>?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. Rewrite Paragraphs into thesis statements

Re-write the following paragraphs that were written to introduce short essays. In addition to correcting the errors of grammar and spelling, make sure that each paragraph has a clear thesis and that the main points are grammatically parallel. In some places, you will have to delete words, phrases, or sentences; in other places, you will have to add them.
• When someone involve them self with car repair, you should always have with you the owner’s manual, a repair book best suited for you, and some idea of what not to attempt yourself. There are just some of the things you should consider:

• Many individuals have future goals. My future goals are to become a legal secretary, get married and finally I would like to raise a family.

• Every student uses their own techniques when studying. When I study I arrange my notes in order, then I read them over until I understand of and finally I try writing out each answer to the questions without going to my note for reference.

9. Identify Problems

Identify the problems in the following thesis statements using these categories:
(a) conflicting ideas  (b) open-ended question (c) too broad  (d) not limited

The World’s Fair in New Orleans was a disaster because of the way the press criticized the way it was run, but it was exciting for little children and had many good food booths.

Answer: (a)  (b)  (c)  (d)
TV commercials are obnoxious to the person who is intent on watching a good show; on the other hand, they provide entertainment in the antics of the performers and they provide a good opportunity to take a snack break.
Answer: (a) (b) (c) (d)

Since politicians are constantly bombarding each other, how do they expect anyone to know who is right and who is wrong?
Answer: (a) (b) (c) (d)

Rap music is a popular form of art because it is creative and original and because it follows the traditions of other spontaneously developed music like jazz.
Answer: (a) (b) (c) (d)

Unless people are conscious of pollution, the world will be destroyed by the year 2050
Answer: (a) (b) (c) (d)

10. Complete the following thesis statements
Complete the following thesis statements by adding the specific points, claims or areas of investigation that you think should feature in the essay.
I. The life expectancy of the average person is increasing because of ...
II. Technology is changing our lives in three important areas: ...
III. A teacher must have the following qualities: ...
IV. The purpose of this paper is to examine ...
V. Owning an automobile is a necessity both ...
VI. Poverty has numerous negative consequences for society, including ...
VII. The main difficulties affecting foreign students at university are ...
VIII. Living together before marriage is becoming increasingly popular for three main reasons ...
The Hardworking Student Writes...

7. Make your Thesis Statement a success
I say always look at your work with the view of the third person, after you finish your work. You see when I write down something out of excitement—mostly thesis statements I feel enthusiastic and optimistic about it at that point in time. I think ‘this is the best idea ever’ but when I go on to look at the resources available to conduct the research, and then come back to review what I wrote last night I learn the painful way that my thesis statement speaks the language of bogus!

As a writer I suggest that every idea that hits you should be recorded immediately because you’re likely to forget it later. Same goes for thesis statements; if you can suddenly jot down a thesis statement while watching the game at 3 in the morning, it may just work for you.

But because you should look back at what you have written after giving yourself a break from thinking about it that gives you the added benefit of minimizing risk of rejection from your supervisor. Look back at it twice and you will always find room for improvement, though keep your first draft so you can reflect back at your initial ideas. Once your content is great, take a deep sigh of relief as your greatest foot has been put forward.

8. Don’t be Anxious about what is to come
It’s easier said than done. But it is fundamentally important that you keep both yourself and your research work organized. Keep a routine of meals and adequate sleep and make sure you organize your thesis research work into the categories they belong to.

Another reminder: Your thesis statement should be the main idea of the thesis research which will relate to your purpose of writing. Thus it is good to go back to read your thesis statement in order to check that you are not straying from the track you have already set out with much thought and practice, during your thesis research process.

The only way you can minimize stress and anxiety during your thesis research is to write a little every day. Of course if you can manage to write in large chunk then that is great, but if ideas are not flowing I suggest that you do not skip writing altogether. Instead you should opt to writing a little.
How can we help further?

This E-Book has been compiled by Julia Augusta, M.A. degrees in both English Literature and Religious Studies from Fielding University. She has been writing and tutoring students for over 4 years. She was an internal proofreader of doctoral dissertations at the Fielding University. She does extremely well working with international or ESL students. Specializing in APA, MLA, and Chicago styles, she has written and proofread hundreds of doctoral dissertations and has been working for Educational Writing for the past 8 years.

From Educational Writing, we wish you all the best for your future endeavors and hope that this guide has benefited you. If you’d like any further help regarding your Thesis Statements, we will only be happy to help Free of Charge while the offer lasts!

Contact us via Phone:
(302) 250-4210
For Live Chat and Email go to:
http://www.educationalwriting.net/writing/support.htm