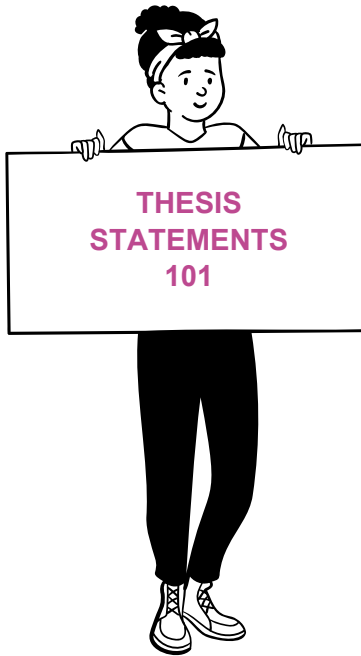


## How to Write a Thesis Statement



### What is a thesis statement?

- ✓ A thesis statement is a sentence **that tells the reader what their essay will be about.**
- ✓ For a 5-paragraph essay, the thesis statement will **typically list three items about the topic of the essay**, one to be discussed in each of the 3 body paragraphs of the essay.
- ✓ For a 4-paragraph essay, the thesis statement will **typically list two items about the topic of the essay**,
- ✓ For a 3-paragraph essay, the thesis statement **will list 1 main item to about the topic of the essay.**

### Why do I need a thesis statement?

- ✓ An essay needs a thesis statement because **it provides the reader with a clue of what the essay will be about**, which will **help the reader better understand the main points** before reading the essay.

### Where does a thesis statement go?

- ✓ The thesis statement should be **the last sentence in the introduction paragraph.**

### How do I write a thesis statement?

- ✓ To write a strong thesis statement, you'll want to include **a summary of all of the important information your essay will talk about.**
- ✓ Ensure it includes the **topic** of your essay and the **three items** that each body paragraph will talk about.

See the chart below for examples of thesis statements for different types of essays:

Type of Essay	Example Topic	Example Thesis Statement
<p><b>Informational</b> (telling the reader about something. The goal is to teach them about something by providing information about it)</p> <p>The thesis statement should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The item or items you're writing about</li> <li>• What you will be saying about those things</li> </ul>	<p>Example <b>Topic 1</b>: turtles</p> <p>Example <b>Topic 2</b>: the movie <i>Toy Story</i>.</p>	<p>1. "<b>Turtles</b> are reptiles that can live <b>in the forest, the desert, or in water.</b>"</p> <p>2. "The movie <i>Toy Story</i> has moments that are <b>happy, funny, and sad.</b>"</p>
<p><b>Persuasive</b> (giving the reader your opinion on something and trying to persuade them to agree with you)</p>	<p>Example <b>Topic 1</b>: wearing uniforms to school</p>	<p>1. <b>Wearing uniforms to school</b> is not a good rule because they are</p>

The Princeton Review is not affiliated with Princeton University.

<p>The thesis statement should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The item or items you are writing about</li> <li>• Your opinion on the item(s) you are writing about (agree/disagree, good/bad, should be allowed/not allowed, etc.)</li> <li>• The reasons why you feel how you do about the topic</li> </ul>	<p>Example <b>Topic 2</b>: recycling</p>	<p>uncomfortable, expensive, and not stylish.</p> <p>2. It is very <b>important to recycle</b> because it <b>helps save our environment</b>, <b>reduces waste</b>, and <b>limits the use of energy</b>.</p>
<p><b>Compare/contrast</b> (explaining how two things are alike and/or different)</p> <p>The thesis statement should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The things you are comparing and/or contrasting</li> <li>• What is alike and/or different about those two things</li> </ul>	<p>Example <b>Topic 1</b>: New Jersey and Florida</p> <p>Example <b>Topic 2</b>: dogs and cats</p>	<p>1. <b>New Jersey</b> and <b>Florida</b> are alike because they <b>both have beaches</b>, and are <b>popular vacation places</b>, but their <b>climates</b> throughout the year are very different.</p> <p>2. Dogs and <b>cats</b> are <b>both popular pet choices</b>, but <b>dogs are usually friendlier</b>, and <b>cats typically like to be alone</b>.</p>