



Thesis Statements

A thesis statement is a single, clear, focused sentence that communicates your project's central focus or argument. It should give your audience a quick and easy-to-follow idea of your position on the topic of the paper. A thesis statement also frames your argument and organizes your paper. Usually, the thesis statement appears toward the end of the first paragraph.

There are several key elements for a thesis statement:

- Cannot be a simple fact
- Not an opinion
- Must be arguable
- Can't be a question

Examples of non-thesis statements:

Star Wars came out in 1977. (fact; not arguable)

Star Wars is my favorite movie. (opinion, simple, can't be argued)

Is *Star Wars* the best movie of all time? (question; not direct claim)

Example of a thesis statement:

Star Wars is a great movie because it complicates the hero archetype outlined by Joseph Campbell in *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*.

Thesis statements can also be "open" (implicit) or "closed" (explicit). Implicit thesis statements do not include a who, what, when, why, or how—while explicit thesis statements do.

Example of an open thesis statement:

Nuclear energy is too dangerous to be used as a source of electrical energy.

Example of a closed thesis statement:

Nuclear energy is too dangerous to be used as a source of electrical energy because of its detrimental effect on the environment.

Helpful tip: Your topic may change as you write, so you may need to revise your thesis statement to reflect exactly what you have discussed in the paper.

Need more information or assistance?

Schedule an appointment with the [Excel Multiliteracy Center](http://multiliteracy.uccs.edu). We are here to provide one-on-one and group assistance to any and all UCCS students!