



## 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!