What is a thesis statement?

A thesis statement is usually one sentence that summarizes the main point, claim or argument of a piece of writing. You can find a thesis on an argumentative essay, research paper, an article, a short-response essay, movies, advertisement, speeches, etc. A thesis statement gives a topic or a purpose to your paper. It is highly recommended that you stick to your thesis the whole paper. However, a thesis can be adjusted as you are writing your paper.

One thing to remember is that a thesis is an argument—an opinion. It is a side that you take or something you want to go against or introduce a brand new idea. You want to convince people that your argument is valid or make them change their minds. For that reason, your thesis must be supported with evidence.

One point of advice is to look at your information, “sources,” and organize them before you take a side. You never want to develop a thesis without having the necessary knowledge. Also, you must look at the prompt assigned and start making relationships in your set of information. This way it will be easier for you as a writer to develop a thesis, see if it is workable, and be persuasive.

At last, always remember that you are writing for an audience, so have someone give you feedback on your writing.

*Some examples of arguments that make a bad thesis:*

* Pollution is bad for the environment.
* The Indo-Europeans were nomads.
* Some people do stuff for different reasons.

As you can notice, bad theses usually state facts and nothing more. If you want to write a good thesis, you have to be able to make an argument (take a side) and give a reason. People will be able to disagree with it. That’s a good thing. Later on, you will add evidence.

For now, let’s just practice making arguments.

*Some examples of arguments:*

* The government should regulate pollution because it is highly detrimental to the environment.
* Harsh environmental conditions forced Indo-Europeans to move out of their land.
* I argue that people tend to have different preferences because of the way their parents raised them.

Finally, you have to provide evidence. Evidence supports your claim and it proves your reason. You have to research new information, use your notes, use your book, etc. Only you can decide which works best. Remember! You can always adjust your thesis as you are writing your paper or stumble upon new information. That is why you should always ask yourself questions such as “Is my claim arguable?” “Is my claim too general?” “Does this source help my thesis?” “How can I improve my argument?” “will the reader understand my writing?”