

WRITE YOUR ANSWERS ON YOUR OWN SHEET OF PAPER. DO NOT WRITE ON THIS COPY!



Thesis Statements

A thesis statement is the main idea of an essay. A similar statement is used to express the main idea in a story. The thesis statement tells the reader what the essay is going to be about and what supporting evidence will be used. In a story, this statement tells the reader what the problem in the story is that will be described. For example, look at the revised thesis statement for the persuasive essay inviting Stephen Hawking to speak to Altamonte Springs:

ORIGINAL: A visit from Stephen Hawking could be great for our city because Hawking is a well known scientist and our town has two engineering magnet programs.

REVISED: I believe [Stephen Hawking's] visit to our beautiful city would be beneficial not only to the aspiring young engineers at our local engineering magnet schools but also to our local scientists, as he would draw in thousands of people to hear him speak which in turn would boost our economy.

The revised example is more descriptive and clearly tells the reader what evidence will be explained in the body of the essay.

Practice #1: Below are sample topics and ineffective thesis statements. Revise the thesis statements to make them more clear and include the supporting evidence you expect would be explained in the body.

1. (Topic: Food) There is a lot of food that tastes really good.
2. (Topic: Sea life) A lot of animals and plants live in different oceans.
3. (Topic: Persuade principal to install additional elevators) More elevators would be better for our school.
4. (Topic: Video games) There are many reasons video games are fun.
5. (Topic: Debate about global warming) There is a lot of talk about global warming.
6. (Topic: Comics) There are different kinds of comics.
7. (Topic: Story about trolls) Edgar had breakfast.
8. (Topic: Favorite stores) I like to shop around the mall.
9. (Topic: Places to travel) There are a lot of places I want to go.
10. (Topic: Best pet products) Pets need stuff.

Practice #2: On a separate sheet of paper, revise the thesis statement for your second draft. If you have not started your second draft, revise the thesis statement for your first sentence. Head your paper with the topic of your essay or story. Then staple your revised thesis statement to your second draft.