

3. Draft your statement

Now that you have information you can establish your stance. Your thesis should be a clear, arguable position that contains supporting arguments.

Note: If this is your first time writing a thesis, or if you are having trouble with arranging it, you can use the traditional three-prong thesis. The three-prong thesis contains three "prongs", or sub-topics that support your statement. Each prong will be developed in your three body paragraphs

4. Polish your statement

You may find that you have to revise your thesis or alter the phrasing to make it more clear for the reader. Before you finalize your last draft, read your paper over and make sure that the thesis statement aligns with the ideas explored in your body paragraphs.

So what is a thesis?

A thesis is a roadmap that directs your paper. It identifies your topic, declares your position, and outlines the support you will use.

What are the steps you can take to write a thesis statement?

1. Understand the assignment at hand.

Make sure that you fully understand the prompt. Ask yourself: what is this asking me to explore?

2. Brainstorm

Once you know the assignment, begin to brainstorm ideas on how to answer it. Depending on the type of paper, doing research, using the annotations that you made in the text, using class notes, or recalling class discussions surrounding the topic can help you formulate your thesis statement.

Keep Calm and write your thesis!

How to write a thesis statement from your friends at the WRC



THESIS

Uncovered

9th Grade Thesis

Guidelines:

- Three-prong may still be acceptable
- Use three-prong thesis as guidelines for body paragraphs
- Try to start stepping away from three-prong as year goes on
- Possible 9th Grade Thesis Example: In Justin Smith's novel *Fun in the Sun*, the character of Lola uses her charm, beauty, and persuasion to win the heart of Joe.

10th Grade Thesis

Guidelines:

- Three-prong thesis no longer acceptable
- Construct more thoughtful and less rigidly structured thesis as blueprint for essay
- Use ideas you want to convey in essay to construct smooth thesis
- Possible 10th Grade Thesis Example: In Steve Harden's memoir *The Trial of Her Gaze*, the author uses fire throughout the novel as a symbol for undying love.

11th Grade Thesis Guidelines:

- Continued exploration of advanced thesis statements expected
- Because specific, pointed analysis is encouraged in Junior year, more specific thesis statements will provide a stronger outline for the essay
- Find specifics within the prompt and the theme to explore in the thesis, providing a specific blueprint
- Possible 11th Grade Thesis Example: In Melissa Sherbet's novel *The Fallacy of Contempt*, the author utilizes the theme of the limitations of knowledge to explain the fates of the character's in the book.

12th Grade Thesis

- ~~Guidelines~~ Advanced thesis statements are required and expected at this level
- Avoid excessive/wording that could convolute your claim.
- Always remain aware of your word or page limitations. Do not create a thesis that cannot be thoroughly explored within the respective paper's word or page count limit.
- If possible, analyze reputable criticism, or research from resources like Blooms and Google Scholar. These sites can provide additional information that will help formulate your thesis.
- Possible 12th Grade Thesis: In Charles's Dickens *Great Expectations*, Abel and Pip use self-reflection as a vehicle to obtain self-awareness.

Thesis Guidelines and Examples