

# 5 TYPES OF THESIS STATEMENTS

## What is a thesis statement?

A thesis statement identifies the main point or central idea of your paper.

## Where should I put it?

In most, but not all, academic papers, your thesis will be explicitly stated in one or two sentences near the beginning of your paper.

## Here are some examples of the most common thesis statements:



### **ARGUMENT: State a point of view and support it with evidence**

**Parts: Topic + position + reasons**

**Example:** Volunteer tourism in southeast Asia [topic] should be more strictly regulated [position] to prevent economic, social, and cultural exploitation [reasons].



### **EVALUATION: Assess strengths and weaknesses**

**Parts: Evaluation + reasons**

**Example:** Abraham Poincheval's installation, *Pierre*, is a landmark in performance art [evaluation], not just because of its unique concept--a man living inside of a rock--but also because of the unique and deeply-felt responses it evokes from visitors of all ages [reasons].



### **ANALYSIS: Examine the components of a text, object, or idea, and discuss how these components work together**

**Parts: Component(s) + effect(s) they produce**

**Example:** In *Jane Eyre*, the use of supernatural elements, mythic references, and fairy tale motifs [components] contribute to a sense of unease throughout the book, making a conventionally happy ending implausible [effect].



### **COMPARISON: Examine the similarities and differences of texts, objects, or ideas**

**Parts: Objects of comparison + conclusion**

**Example:** A comparison of the mechanisms and outcomes of immunotherapy and chemotherapy [objects of comparison] shows that immunotherapies are more effective in treating cancer and cause fewer harmful side effects for cancer patients [conclusion].



### **CAUSE AND EFFECT: Focus on how actions or events contributed to specific outcomes**

**Parts: Cause(s) + effect(s)**

**Example:** Many people believe the Great Depression was the result of the Stock Market Crash of 1929; however, the economic crisis in Canada [effect] was worsened by global trade agreements and government inaction [causes].