

## Building a Thesis Statement

The content of every well-crafted essay can be summarized in one complete sentence: a thesis statement. A thesis statement *is a concise and complete expression (usually in one sentence) of your essay's main ideas*. Every thesis statement should consist of two components: a topic and a claim.

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Claim</u>
Space exploration...	...can yield exciting new technologies, rally patriotism, and inspire youth to study science.
Computers...	...have become an essential part of our educational communities, our business interactions, and our personal lives.

Thesis statements don't "just happen." They require deliberate and careful thought, and they usually appear at the end of your essay's introduction. You don't have to have a thesis statement to start drafting, but a well-crafted thesis statement is essential for your final draft.

## Points of Importance

- Your thesis statement should have a *topic and a claim*.
- Your thesis statement should *mirror the ideas* in the body of your essay.
- Your thesis statement should generally *appear at the end* of the introduction paragraph.
- Your thesis statement should include the *significance* of the claim/argument you make in your essay.

## Revising a Thesis Statement

Thesis statements rarely pop on to a page fully formed. Rather, they grow, change, and adapt. In short, they evolve. Rarely will the first draft of a thesis statement survive unchanged throughout the drafting process. So, it's okay to start with a "working thesis." *As you consider your topic and conduct additional research, your thesis statement should grow increasingly more detailed and sophisticated.*

**Working Thesis:** The Detroit Lions are a horrible football team.

**Revised Thesis:** Due to a lack of coaching continuity, poor draft choices, and a series of injuries, the Detroit Lions have failed to achieve their full potential.

## Points of Importance

- Thesis statements can and should evolve as you draft your essay.
- Your research and critical thinking should inform the development of your thesis.
- Thesis statements can include subordinate clauses that suggest differing viewpoints.

**Office:** Writing Center

**Date:** 8/21/18

# Building and Revising a Thesis: Worksheet

Write your topic and claim below. Then construct your “working thesis” statement.

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

Claim: \_\_\_\_\_

**Working Thesis Statement:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Revising a Thesis Statement

Based on your thesis statement above, list reasons for supporting and NOT supporting your thesis statement. Carefully consider what your audience may think and feel regarding your argument. How would they agree and/or disagree with you? Answering this question will help you to develop a strong, defensible thesis statement that not only addresses your essay’s main ideas, but also the significance of your essay/argument.

### Reasons for supporting your thesis statement:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

### Reasons for NOT supporting your thesis statement:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Using the above information, begin revising your thesis statement based on what you feel are your strongest points and/or reasons for your argument/claim being valid and important. Include these strong points in your revised thesis statement.

**Revised Thesis Statement:** \_\_\_\_\_

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