
FREWRITE: REFLECT ON THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

- ▶ What do I already know about thesis statements?
- ▶ What should a successful thesis do?
- ▶ What genres did you need to write a thesis for (academic or otherwise?)
- ▶ How did you do it?
- ▶ What was successful or unsuccessful about your past thesis statements?

WHAT A THESIS STATEMENT IS / SHOULD BE

- ▶ A central argument / claim
- ▶ Debatable
- ▶ Specific (situated in a time / place)
- ▶ Reflect the argument of the paper
- ▶ Respond to the prompt or RQ (if applicable)

**FOOD NETWORK MAGAZINE
CONTAINS ADS FOR NON-FOOD
RELATED PRODUCTS BUT THERE
ARE PICTURES OF FOOD IN THE ADS**

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Statement of Fact, Not a Thesis

**THIS ESSAY IS ABOUT HOW MIGRANT
COMMUNITIES DEVELOP LITERACY
PRACTICES IN CONJUNCTION WITH THEIR
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Topic Description / Forecast Statement, Not Thesis

RELATION B/W THESIS & INTRO

- ▶ Beginning of Intro = contextualizes problem and research question
- ▶ Thesis = introduces central argument
- ▶ End of Intro = explains why this matters and to whom? Also touches on what you want the reader to get out of essay / what you want them to do after reading.





- X is missing from our understanding of Y; we need to consider X
- We should reconsider X from Y perspective because of _____.
- In contrast to the literature on my topic, which says X, I propose Y.
- The literature on this topic demonstrates X, and my own research, which shows Y, agree with these findings.

Common Thesis Moves

ON ORGANIZATION

**YOUR THESIS PROVIDES AND REFLECTS
THE STRUCTURE OF YOUR PAPER**

EXAMPLE

While scholarship on mass incarceration focuses on systemic effects of racism and classism, we also need to consider how this phenomena disproportionately impact disabled populations as well. Doing so can help us more comprehensively understand how the prison industrial complex affects marginalized populations within the U.S. at large.

REMEMBER

- ▶ It's totally acceptable (and encouraged) to use "I" in your thesis statement
- ▶ Feel free to say "I argue _____" as a starting point for your thesis
- ▶ Thesis statements don't have to be one sentence long
- ▶ Thesis statements don't have to be the last sentence in the introduction paragraph (though they should be at the beginning of the paper / essay)