

## Thesis Templates

Good writing requires a main thought or argument that will keep a paper's content focused. In academic writing, this main thought is known as a thesis and is represented by a phrase usually placed at the end of the introduction: this is called the thesis statement. The thesis statement consists of two sections – a claim and the supporting reasons for that claim. The claim is the part of the thesis that declares the central point of the paper. The supporting ideas introduce new concepts on which the paper's body paragraphs will focus. This handout will provide several thesis statement templates that are common in academic writing. These templates are not meant to be definitive formulas that will fit every paper. Instead, they are designed to help writers put ideas into a thesis statement. Once students write the first draft of a paper, they should review and revise the thesis statement to ensure that it accurately reflects the paper's argument and organization.

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## Thesis Templates and Examples

### General Thesis

*Template:*

\_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_,  
*Claim* *Reason #1*

\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.  
*Reason #2* *Reason #3*

*Example:*

Smart phones have revolutionized communication because they increase the number of ways to communicate,  
*Claim* *Reason #1*

allow people to communicate instantly, and make international communication cheaper than typical landlines.  
*Reason #2* *Reason #3*

### Cause and Effect

*Template:*

\_\_\_\_\_ had the effect of  
*Cause*

\_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_,  
*Effect* *Reason #1*

\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.  
*Reason #2* *Reason #3*

*Example:*

Beauty standards in America contribute to eating disorders because the standards cause  
*Cause* *Effect*

society to base a person's worth on his or her size and shape, are unrealistic and unattainable, and are pervasive.  
*Reason #1* *Reason #2* *Reason #3*

## Literary Analysis

*Template:*

In \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ uses \_\_\_\_\_  
*Title of work Author Literary Device*

to illustrate \_\_\_\_\_.  
*Claim*

*Example:*

In Wedding Band, Alice Childress uses the interracial relationship of Julia and Herman to illustrate  
*Title of work Author Literary Device*

that while progress still needs to be made towards racial equality, such progress is possible if  
*Claim*

Americans are willing to acknowledge and reject their prejudices.

### Argumentative

Template:

Although \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
*Concession* *Claim*

because \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.  
*Reason #1* *Reason #2* *Reason #3*

Example:

Although the *Hunger Games* movie fails to accurately portray Katniss and Peeta's relationship,  
*Concession*

the movie is true to the book because it depicts Katniss's character accurately, does not glorify the  
*Claim* *Reason #1* *Reason #2*

violence of the games, and focuses on the same themes of oppression and injustice.  
*Reason #3*

### A Reminder

These thesis templates should primarily be used to guide the writing of the first draft. As you write, you may have new insights or realize that a certain idea will not work. Once the first draft is finished, review the paper and check to see if the thesis, paper content, and organization match. If not, be sure to revise the thesis to follow the paper's organization or reorganize the paper to follow the thesis.

### Additional Resources

For further help writing a thesis statement, visit the Academic Center for Excellence's walk-in Writing Center, schedule an appointment with a tutor, or visit our website at <https://www.germannna.edu/academic-center-for-excellence/>. You can also read the following handouts: [Guide to Writing an Essay](#), [Creating a Thesis Statement](#), [How to Organize a Paper](#) and [Brainstorming with Venn Diagrams](#).