

Thesis statement

What is a thesis statement?

It is a one sentence summary of the content of your composition.

What if my summary doesn't fit into one sentence?

You have not narrowed your topic enough. You need to focus on the primary idea of your essay/composition. Keep it concise and simple. After all, you're writing a paper, not a book.

Why do I need a thesis sentence?

The thesis sentence defines the path you intend to follow throughout your composition. It lets the reader know exactly where you are going.

In addition, the thesis sentence keeps the writer on track. It's helpful to put the thesis sentence on a sticky note on your computer, as well as at the top of your draft pages. Refer to it often so you don't go off on tangents.

Be aware that as you develop your sources and do your research, your original thesis statement may change. That's fine; just adjust the rest of the paper so it fits the new version.

Do I need to put the thesis sentence in my paper?

It should be a part of your introductory paragraph. The Owl at Purdue University (a great website) says the thesis sentence should go at the end of the first paragraph in your paper. Placing the thesis sentence near the beginning of your paper ensures that the writer and the reader are on the same page. When reviewing your paper, an objective peer or your instructor should be able to pick out the reason (the thesis) you are writing on a particular subject.

Examples:

1.Purpose/Thesis (why you are writing this paper): Higher education can be expensive, but it's worth it in the long run. My paper will explore various ways to finance a college education that will minimize the effects on students' debt loads.

Thesis statement: Although the price of a college education is high, there are many ways students can keep the costs within reason, while pursuing their dreams for a future career.

2. Purpose/Thesis: We should all help our environment by recycling and reusing as much material as we can. This paper will explore the different kinds of recycling, the costs and the benefits, and it will give tips on how each person can make a difference in the effect on our world.

Thesis statement: Recycling and reusing materials is an easy and efficient way of contributing to a better community and a cleaner world.