

Writing Thesis Statements: “Do’s” and “Don’ts”

A thesis statement is an assertion, not a statement of fact or an observation.

- **Fact or observation:** People use many lawn chemicals.
 - **Thesis:** People are poisoning the environment with chemicals merely to keep their lawns clean.
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A thesis takes a stand rather than announcing a subject.

- **Announcement:** The thesis of this paper is the difficulty of solving our environmental problems.
 - **Thesis:** Solving our environmental problems is more difficult than many environmentalists believe.
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A thesis is the main idea, not the title. It must be a complete sentence that explains in some detail what you expect to write about.

- **Title:** Social Security and Old Age.
 - **Thesis:** Continuing changes in the Social Security System makes it almost impossible to plan intelligently for one's retirement.
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A thesis statement is narrow, rather than broad. If the thesis statement is sufficiently narrow, it can be fully supported.

- **Broad:** The American steel industry has many problems.
 - **Narrow:** The primary problem if the American steel industry is the lack of funds to renovate outdated plants and equipment.
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A thesis statement is specific rather than vague or general.

- **Vague:** Hemingway's war stories are very good.
- **Specific:** Hemingway's stories helped create a new prose style by employing extensive dialogue, shorter sentences, and strong Anglo-Saxon words.

[Link To An Additional Thesis Statement Resource](#)