

THESIS STATEMENTS:

A *thesis statement* provides the reader with a clear, specific argument that will serve as a guide to the reader. The thesis statement will help the reader to understand the purpose and direction of the rest of the paper. Think of it almost like a single-sentence road map for your essay.

You will be writing two different types of essays: explanatory/analytical & argumentative. While they both have a thesis statement, the purpose of those thesis statements is a little different. In the chart below, write down what you believe is the goal of the thesis statement for each type of essay:

Explanatory/Analytical Essays	Argumentative Essays
What is the purpose of an explanatory/analytical essay?	What is the purpose of an argumentative essay?
What is the goal of the thesis statement for this type of essay?	What is the goal of the thesis statement for this type of essay?

Here is a sample thesis statement: **School uniforms should be implemented school-wide because they are cost-effective, they reduce bullying, and they are less of an academic distraction.**

Based off of that thesis statement, what is the outline for the essay?

- Introduction paragraph
- Body paragraph 1: _____
- Body paragraph 2: _____
- Body paragraph 3: _____
- Conclusion paragraph

Here is an outline for a sample essay:

- Introduction paragraph
- Body paragraph 1: uniforms are expensive
- Body paragraph 2: they take away a student's self-expression
- Body paragraph 3: schools can have dress codes without mandating uniforms
- Conclusion paragraph

Based off of that outline, write a sample thesis statement for this essay:

Read the following thesis statements and determine if the essay is argumentative (A) or explanatory (E):

_____ Violent video games should not be blamed for teen violence because they allow a release from stress, teenagers are old enough to decipher the difference between real life and a video game, and the effect of video games as misunderstood.

_____ The passages illustrate two different sides of Pandora and these contrasting elements lead to changing other characters, advancing the plot, and developing the theme of the two stories.

_____ Both John Proctor and Abigail help to propel the plot with John doing so through his progression of morality and with Abigail doing so through manipulation of the courts.

_____ People should buy organic food because it reduces harmful pollution from pesticides and because there are more health benefits in the food without the harsh chemicals.

_____ The most significant character trait that contributed to the downfall of Caesar was his arrogance because it made him doubt Calphurnia's dreams and it made him blind to the conspirators' true motives.

continued on next page

Argumentative Thesis Statements: Rank the following thesis statements from most thorough (1) to the one that needs the most improvement (4):

_____ The articles “Seven figure salaries, sold-out stadiums: Is pro video gaming a sport?” and “ESports on ESPN: Why Video Games Are Not Sports” both show several compelling arguments.

_____ Video gaming should not be considered a sport for many reasons.

_____ Some people believe that video gaming should be considered a sport because there is a physical component to it while others do not think it’s a sport because the level of physical exertion isn’t as high as traditional sports.

_____ Video gaming should be considered a sport because video games do require physical exertion and they generate millions of dollars in revenue from audiences.

Explanatory Thesis Statements: Rank the following thesis statements from most thorough (1) to the one that needs the most improvement (4):

_____ The defeated tone and chronological structure of "I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings" contrasts the defiant tone and cause and effect structure of "Still I Rise" to allow insight into the varying messages of defensive thinking their authors provide.

_____ The author of “I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings” and “Still I Rise,” Maya Angelou, uses a variety of techniques to get her main point across to the reader.

_____ The tone and structure of “I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings” and “Still I Rise” get the author’s main point across more clearly.

_____ The structure for “I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings” is feelings to facts and “Still I Rise” has a structure of negative to positive.