

THESIS STATEMENT CHECKLIST

Creating a thesis is a key step in writing an academic paper. It lets your readers know the main claim of the paper and gives them a roadmap to guide them through your paper. Here are some helpful questions to ask yourself as you develop your thesis statement:

ASK YOURSELF THESE QUESTIONS:

- Does my thesis statement respond directly to the assignment prompt/research question?
- Does my thesis statement contain a clear claim and organizing principle?
- Within my thesis statement, have I presented my points in the order they will appear in my paper?
- If it's an argumentative thesis statement, have I addressed my audience [readers]?
- If it's an argumentative thesis statement, do I save my strongest point for last?
- Is there any idea in my thesis not addressed in my paper?
- Is my thesis statement one-two sentences?
- Although my thesis is based on informed opinion, is it free from 1st person phrases such as "I think" and "I believe?"

Note: Return to your thesis regularly when writing your paper. Be willing to revise your thesis as needed while drafting.

PRACTICE NOW