

Tips for Writing a Thesis Statement

The thesis is the controlling force behind your argument. After your introduction sets up why the discussion is interesting or necessary to consider, your thesis statement is one solid, complete sentence that promises to deliver your carefully reasoned response to the issue. Your thesis should therefore:

1. Be expressed in one complete sentence at the end of your introduction.
2. Indicate your position on the issue by stating what you will actually prove by the paper's end.
3. Use clear and precise language that sets the tone for the entire essay.
4. Reference the sources you will use in your argument and how they contribute to the project.
5. Not be phrased as a question, but rather as a solid answer to a specific question raised—explicitly or implicitly—within the introduction.
6. Not claim something obvious.
7. Not make use of clichés or tentative language such as "I think."

Note: Your thesis can (will probably) adapt as you read and discover more about your topic and find evidence to support your thesis.

Source: http://www.biola.edu/academics/torrey/handbook/handbook.cfm?handbook_pageid=29