

Building A Thesis



This handout is based on the UAGC *Thesis Generator* guide, Revised in 2022.

A **thesis** is a clear statement that encapsulates the paper's main focus and indicates the organization of your argument for the reader and for the writer. It is typically one to two sentences in length and falls at the end of the first paragraph.

1.) State your topic

Your topic is the essential idea of your paper that summarizes the subject of your paper. For your thesis statement, try to make your topic as specific as possible.

Example: monitoring children's television use

Example: college students' busy lives

Example: college admission process challenges

2.) State your main idea about this topic

What are you trying to state or prove about your topic? What are you trying to persuade the reader to believe? This can be argumentative, explanatory, or analytical in nature.

- *Argumentative*: makes a claim, proposal, or opinion on a topic that aims to convince the audience the claim is true.
- *Explanatory*: explains something to the audience.
- *Analytical*: breaks down and evaluates a topic or idea and presents this breakdown to the audience.

Argumentative Example	Parents should regulate the amount of television their children watch
Explanatory Example	College students are busy due to the time they spend on various activities
Analytical Example	College counselors are faced with one issue during the college admission process

3.) Give one reason that supports your main idea

Write your reason as a clear statement. This statement typically comes from your body paragraph's topic sentence.

Argumentative Example	It is not always intellectually stimulating
Explanatory Example	Studying and attending class
Analytical Example	Accepting students with high test scores

4.) Give a second reason that supports your main idea

Write your reason as a clear statement. This statement typically comes from your body paragraph's topic sentence.

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- Provide a third reason if you have three body paragraphs in your paper

Argumentative Example	It has lasting negative effects on a child's language development
Explanatory Example	Socializing with peers
Analytical Example	Students with strong extracurricular backgrounds

5.) Include an opposing viewpoint to your main idea, if applicable (Optional)

A good thesis statement acknowledges that there is always another side to the argument. So, include an opposing viewpoint (a counterargument) to your opinion.

Argumentative example: television can be educational

Thesis Statement Examples:

Argumentative: Although television can be educational, parents should regulate the amount their children watch because it is not always intellectually stimulating and has lasting negative effects on a child's language development.

Explanatory: College students are busy due to the time they spend studying, attending class, and socializing with peers.

Analytical: An analysis of the college admission process reveals one challenge facing counselors: accepting students with high test scores or students with strong extracurricular backgrounds.

Resources:

How to write a thesis statement: <https://wts.indiana.edu/writing-guides/how-to-write-a-thesis-statement.html>

Tips for Writing Your Thesis Statement:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/the_writing_process/thesis_statement_tips.html