

Thesis Statements

A good thesis

- Is a statement of your topic
- Indicates what you want to say about it by including your argument or opinion
- Tells your readers specific points they can expect to learn from your paper

Examples of good thesis statements

- UHMC students (*topic*) make good friends (*your opinion*) because they are sociable, loyal, and generous (*specific points you will discuss*).
- Steelmaking (*topic*) is a complex process (*argument*) that involves purifying, smelting, cooling, and refining (*specific points*).

Poor thesis statements

- America bombed Hiroshima in 1945 (*statement of fact*).
- Radiation can be dangerous (*too vague and general*).
- *The Temple of Doom* is the worst book ever written (*a matter of taste, no support given*).
- This paper is about irradiated food (*this is a topic, but gives no sense of direction—what will the paper claim about irradiated food?*).

What will a thesis do for the writer?

- Identifies the main point
- Keeps the paper focused
- Gives a roadmap for the paper
- Acts like a filter for non-essential information
- Gives you something to conclude

What does a thesis do for a reader?

- Identifies the topic
- Clarifies the thread that unifies the points of discussion
- Invites reading
- Gives a purpose for the article