



What is a Thesis Statement?

- A thesis statement is usually found in the introduction of an essay and it is basically the backbone and blue print of how the author presents the information in the essay. It can be sometimes quantified with two or three reasons or subtopics that support the overall purpose of the paper to make it more specific. It represents the trunk of a tree, in which everything on the tree, including the branches (topic sentences) and the leaves and fruits (details and facts) stand on. Everything that the topic sentences or the details speak of must have something to do with the thesis. There must always be direct connection and relevance from the leaves and branches to the trunk. The trunk of an apple tree cannot produce oranges. In the same way, one cannot speak of grandmother's delicious oatmeal raisin cookies in the same essay that seeks to end child labor in third-world countries. Lastly, the thesis statement sets the tone and mood of the paper in presenting to the reader a taste of things to come.
- Try to be specific:
 - o Bad Example: There are some causes that contribute to Diabetes.
 - o Good Example: According to the American Diabetes Association, type II Diabetes has three major and critical causes that can be identified which include hereditary factors, lack of exercise, and unhealthy eating habits.

Topic Sentences

- A topic sentence can be viewed as a mini-thesis for a paragraph. It gives the "heads up" for what the reader is expecting to learn in a particular paragraph. Paragraphs are full of details but an essay cannot expect to just spill them all over the table without organizing them into special categories with a LABEL. This label represents the topic sentence which tells the reader what is contained in the paragraph. Without a detailed and specific topic sentence, the reader is thrown into a world of information and ideas without properly being prepared for the journey. The branch that stems off a tree is similar to a topic sentence that stems off the thesis. It should be consistent to what the thesis statement had given earlier in the introduction. It should also be relevant to the thesis as well. Try to make it smooth and transitional from one idea to another.
- Again, try to be specific:
 - o Bad Example: If one's parent has had diabetes, that person may have it also.
 - o Good Example: The first major factor and cause of type II diabetes in adults today can be directly linked to hereditary factors.

Details

- Details should be arranged in an orderly fashion. If one topic sentence of a paragraph speaks of hereditary factors being a cause of type II diabetes, there shouldn't be any information about lack of exercise playing a role in causing diabetes in that same paragraph. The leaves from one branch should be separated from the leaves of another branch. Organization is key in properly ordering and arranging pieces of information, details, and quotes. Just make sure that ideas don't intercross from paragraph to paragraph.

Conclusion

- You may take the time here to reiterate your thesis and leave a lasting tone in the essay. Why is this topic significant again? The reader has been flustered with claims and information in the paragraphs and he or she needs to be refreshed with knowing why they even read the essay in the first place. Here is where you can leave a good impression on your topic and remind the reader that what you had to say in the essay was important and not just a jumble of nonsense.