# **Thesis Statements | QC Writing Center**

**What’s a Thesis?**

* Simply put, **the thesis states what the author believes** about the essay’s topic.
  + It is the controlling, or main, idea of the essay.
  + It can be an opinion, a judgement, or an argument.
  + It must be justified with supporting ideas or evidence. Therefore, the contents of the essay should aim to connect to/comment on the thesis.

**Crafting a Thesis**

1. **Is it specific enough?**

To keep the length of your essay and the research necessary to the appropriate scope, try to craft a statement that restricts the topic discussion to just one or two areas.

1. **Can I support this?**

A thesis should fit the knowledge you have or can obtain.

1. **If you get stuck, start with a thesis that adapts one of these example templates:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Affirm:** | **Analyze:** | **Challenge:** |
| **Simple Structure** | * From my perspective… * In my view, the [author]… * I strongly agree with the [argument] that… * I disagree with the notion that… * Based on X,I believe Y. * **While I acknowledge X, it is necessary to take into account Y because Z.** | * In this [text], X symbolizes Y by… * The [author] illustrates the importance of X by Y. * The [text] highlights the difference between X and Y by Z. | * The [text] fails to address… * The [author] overlooks… * The [author’s argument] lacks clear evidence about X in that... * The [author’s point] is questionable in that it… * **In examining X**, **it is useful to reconsider Y.** * **Though [author] seems to suggest X, a crucial part of this debate involves Y because Z.** |
| **Compound Structure** | * Both [author 1] and [author 2] influence why I feel… | * In both [text 1] and [text 2], the authors demonstrate X through their use of Y and Z. * **Despite many clear differences, both [argument 1] and [argument 2] share X.** | * **While** [text 1] and [text 2]**may appear to have similar**X, **they** Y**differently.** |

**\*Note** the verbs used in these examples: *symbolizes, illustrates, highlights*, etc. **What verb best suits your statement?**  
**\*Note** that *text, author*, and *argument*, which appear in brackets in these examples, can be replaced with *passage, chapter, poem, article, book, song, film*, a theme, a point of view, a character, etc. **Choose what is most appropriate for the focus of your essay.**

1. **Modify your thesis as you draft/revise.**

Do this to ensure what you assert in your thesis statement is what’s explored and supported in the essay.