



Thesis Statement

Thesis Statement The basic stand you take, the opinion you express towards the subject Your controlling idea, tying together and giving direction to all elements in the paper

Primary purpose is to persuade the reader that your thesis is valid

THESIS is NOT

A Fact:

Jane Austen is the author of *Pride and Prejudice*.

An Announcement of the Subject:

The thesis of this paper is the difficulty of my grandfather's memory.

THESIS

Jane Austen influenced other female writers in publishing stories with strong female leads. My grandfather's memory has become very weak lately, creating major problems for him with his family, friends, and business associates.

Thesis Examples

Compare & Contrast:

Although different in purpose, weddings and funerals each draw families together and confirm family values.

Argumentative:

Many baseball players are paid far more than their abilities can justify.

THESIS CHECKLIST

Did I answer the question? (if the instructor has a prompt)

Have I taken a position that others might challenge or oppose?

Is my thesis statement specific enough? (e.g., avoiding vague descriptors such as 'good', 'successful', etc)

Does my essay support my thesis specifically and without wandering?