

Writing an Effective Thesis Statement

Answer the Prompt

- Make sure your thesis statement answers the question in the prompt!
- Restate the prompt's question in your answer

Move Beyond "Yes" or "No"

- Your thesis should answer **how** and **why**
- Utilize "**because**" to link your specific claim to a specific reason

Provide a Road Map

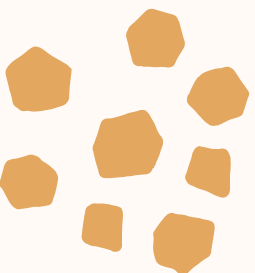
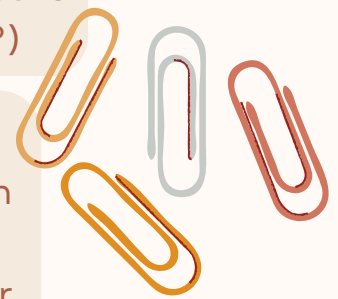
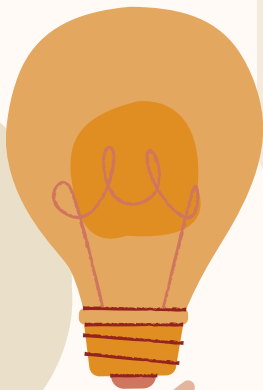
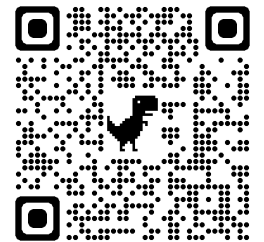
- Give readers a sense of how you'll develop your claim throughout the essay
- Make sure your thesis addresses "**so what?**" (why should readers care about this? how is it relevant to them?)

Make it Arguable

- Readers should be able to disagree with your claim if they want to
- If readers cannot disagree with your claim, it's a fact, and you'll want to revise it

For More Guidance:

If you want more guidance on developing an effective thesis statement, check out this handout!



KEY TAKEAWAYS



Your thesis should...



Your thesis should not...

Answer the prompt's question

Offer a factual statement (unless you're writing a report)

Move beyond a simple "yes" or "no" answer

Be vague or ambiguous

Use "because" or another linking word to show reasoning

Offer a claim without specific reasoning

Show readers how you'll develop your claim

Go off topic