

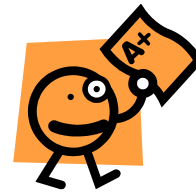
Choose the best thesis statement in each group (See answers below)

Group 1

- Knowing a foreign language is important.
- Why should people know a foreign language?
- Knowing a foreign language can help one advance in a career, relate better to others, and open one's mind to the ideas of another culture.

Group 2

- Some of the major causes behind common diseases in the Canada could be traced to three main factors: poor diet, lack of exercise, and smoking.
- What are some of the main causes behind many of our diseases in the Canada today?
- This essay examines some of the major causes behind many of our diseases in the Canada today.



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Developing a Thesis Statement

What is a Thesis Statement?

- The **thesis statement** functions in the same way for an essay as the **topic sentence** functions for a paragraph.
- The thesis statement is the main statement containing the writer's view and purpose for the essay. It should directly answer the question being asked by the assignment.
- The thesis statement is both clear and specific, while it outlines the direction of the writer's thoughts. The writer should avoid being too general in his or her thesis statement. If the main idea contained in the thesis statement is too general, it will be difficult for the writer to prove of its all aspects in the essay.
- From the thesis statement, the reader will know the direction of the essay.
- A thesis statement must be written in a way that allows readers to agree or disagree with it. It must also be proven by evidence and examples in the body paragraphs of the essay.
- The thesis statement should not be in the form of a question.
- The thesis statement should be used near or at the end of the introductory paragraph.

Steps for Writing a Thesis Statement:

- Begin by researching the problems and issues relating to your topic. Search for points of interest, concern, or question. Try to identify a point that your readers will want to learn about.
- Write your thesis statement and be prepared to adjust it as you continue your research.
- Predict what the arguments against your thesis statement might be. Use those points to try and improve and strengthen our thesis statement.

Is my Thesis Statement Strong Enough?

- Do I answer an interesting question about my topic in my thesis statement?
- Have I chosen a thesis statement that some people may disagree with?
- Does my thesis statement contain some specific details about my topic?
- Will someone reading my thesis statement be able to say, "So what?" or "Who cares?" If so, try and include details about why someone should care about your topic.
- Will I be able to prove my thesis statement with my body paragraphs so that most readers will agree with my main idea?
- Will someone read my thesis statement and wonder, "How?" or "Why?" If so, try to add details to your thesis statement that will answer those questions.
- Does the order of the main points from my thesis statement match the order they are presented in my paper? Did I use my strongest point last?

Example Thesis Statements

Sample Essay Topic:

Is a healthy diet important? Explain.

Weak Thesis Statements:

- *A healthy diet is important* (This example is too general.)
- *Adults should include eight to ten servings of fruits and vegetables in their diet every day.* (This example is too specific.)
- *Green vegetables are some of the most nutritious foods in the world.* (This example does not address the essay topic.)

Good Thesis Statement example:

A healthy diet is important because it increases energy, prevents illness, and promotes well-being in people.