

**Academic Success Center
Thomas Jefferson University
East Falls Campus**

Generating Your Thesis Statement

Great thesis statements...

- state a position that is clear and to the point
- present an argument, and can be argued for OR against by a logical person
- are specific (specificity helps prove the relevance of the thesis to the specific assignment, as well as the overall significance of the thesis (sometimes called the “So what?”))

Topic + Position + Reason = THESIS

TOPIC

To determine your **topic**, ask yourself, “What general category have I been asked to write about? Do I need to address it in a certain way?”

Your **topic** can often be found by making a list of key words in your assignment guidelines.

Make a list of your assignment’s key words:

POSITION

You need to know more than the general **topic** of your paper to write a thesis statement. One of the most important (and often most difficult) steps in writing a thesis is choosing what you want to prove about your **topic** —in other words, your **position**. A good way to test whether or not your position is good would be to ask yourself if a rational person could argue with it.

Explain your **position** on the **topic** you’ve chosen/been assigned here:

Once you have a great thesis statement, a **position** can often be tweaked to reflect what additional information you have discovered in your research.

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REASON

Finally, once you have a **topic** and **position**, you will need to determine a **reason** why your **position** is sound.

To come up with one, answer the question, "Why is my **position** on my **topic** accurate? What types of evidence do I have?":

****COMBINE YOUR IDEAS****

The final step of writing a great thesis is to combine the above ideas into one sentence.

Combine TOPIC, POSITION, and REASON: