Thesis Statements

A thesis statement is the central idea of your essay. It’s your opinion on the topic and previews your essay. It will be just one sentence and will come at the end of your introduction.

What is a thesis?

Types of thesis statements

There are many types of thesis statements, but this year you will learn two basic forms: a list (or three-part) thesis and a concession thesis. As honors students, you will also learn the boomer (or refutation) thesis.

List (Three-part). State your point-of-view and list three reasons to support it. This is a basic thesis format for informative essays.

Template:\_ \_\_(your opinion on the prompt)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_(reason one)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_(reason two)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (reason three)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Sample: Schools should not require uniforms because they are uncomfortable, they limit self-expression, and they are expensive.

Concession. Concede (or admit) that one point from the opposing view is valid and then state your point of view (which is stronger) with two reasons to support it. Use this thesis when you need to discuss the opposing viewpoint, but it makes more sense to appear reasonable and admit that they have ONE good idea. Make sure you only concede one of their points – you still need to prove yours are better.

Template: (Despite/ although/even though/while) (one point you are conceding), (your point is better) because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Sample: While uniforms can help prevent bullying, they are still not a good idea because they limit freedom of expression and are expensive.

Boomer. State your point of view with two reasons to support it and then refute (or deny) one point from the opposing view. Use this thesis to address the opposing view when one of their points is clearly flawed. While this sounds more appealing, it can be hard to maintain an academic tone which is why we learn the other two formats first.

Template: (Your opinion on the prompt) because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and those who (point from the opposing argument) fail to consider \_(what’s wrong with their POV)\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Sample: Uniforms not only limit freedom of expression and are expensive, but those who claim they prevent bullying fail to consider the many other factors that influence bullying.