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. You will use the list thesis for informative writing – persuasive, cause/effect, and process analysis. Concession will be reserved for argumentative writing – when you start discussing more than one point of view.

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.