



Writing Centre Thesis Statements

The **thesis statement** is an important guiding sentence that helps to indicate the direction you plan to lead the reader throughout your essay. It should be a clear and concise statement which presents the main purpose of your paper or the argument you are making and the major *supporting details*.

The thesis statement is normally found in the last sentence of the introductory paragraph(s). Sometimes it may be placed in other locations such as at the beginning of the introduction or in the conclusion, but this is only for very specific subjects and types of papers.

Examples:

Kamloops is a great place to live because of its *great climate, excellent air quality and access to outdoor activities*.

Unnecessary packaging of retail products should be discouraged as *it is frustrating for consumers to open, uses up resources such as paper and plastics and contributes to unnecessary waste in local landfills*.

Sometimes you may include the **opposing viewpoint** in your introduction depending on the subject and the style of paper.

Although Kamloops is small, it is a great place to live because of its *great climate, excellent air quality and access to outdoor activities*.

Although Canada is well known for its universal healthcare system, greater funding for healthcare is necessary given that *Canadians are plagued by a shortage of family doctors, long wait times for surgeries and pharmaceuticals that are too expensive for many low income families*.

Notes and tips:

- Have a rough idea of your thesis statement before you begin writing the body of your essay.
- You can always come back and make changes to your thesis statement as your topic becomes more defined and during the editing process.
- Make your thesis statement interesting and memorable while at the same time remaining understandable so that readers will be interested in reading the body of your essay.
- A thesis statement should not be in the form of a question- rhetorical or otherwise.
- Everything in your paper should relate back to your thesis statement and ultimately prove it to be true.
- A more specific thesis statement will help keep you on track if you tend to ramble.