**Thesis**

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Definition

The purpose of a thesis is to indicate the essay’s content and to establish a perspective.The thesis is usually placed as the last sentence of 1st paragraph, or if introduction is more than one paragraph, as the last sentence in the introduction. The thesis is not a question or a fact or a problem itself. The thesis is the answer to a question or an opinion/interpretation about something or a solution to a problem. It is one statement that summarizes the central idea of the paper.

Examples:

*In order to evolve into a global society that appreciates and respects diversity, individuals must show the will to perceive life through the experiences of others.*

Another thesis on this topic (using 1st person plural) might be…

*In order to develop an understanding of diversity, we must be willing to actively listen to all voices, observe what is both similar and different in all of our lives, and then feel the experiences of others; without this conscious effort, we will continue to support the intolerance and apathy that leads to prejudice.*

The thesis also could be more generalized as in this example:

*In order to end prejudice, humanity must consciously take action that improves understanding of the diversity of the human experience*

**A thesis should include:**

* The **topic** of discussion. Ask yourself, “What do I plan to discuss?” **Topic derived from the sample thesis**: *Diversity*
* Indication of the **main** **points** of the argument or the subtopics to be explored. This provides a structure for the essay’s development. Ask yourself, “What are the categories I see emerging from my sources? How or in what ways will I discuss my topic?”
* **Points or sub-topics derived from the sample thesis**: *perceiving experience through others* (could be broken down into awareness, observation, understanding, empathy, compassion), *effect of empathic perception on appreciation of and respect for diversity.*
* The **assertion** (claim) conveying point of view; declares a central message of or lesson for the essay. Ask yourself, “Why is this important? Or “Why does this matter?”
* **Assertion derived from the sample thesis:** *Appreciating diversity* ***results from*** *understanding others.*

How to Create a Thesis

Begin by brainstorming responses to these questions:

*What is my guiding question for the paper?*

*What has my preliminary research, lecture, discussions or assigned readings shown in answer to that question?*

*What are the subpoints within this issue, and on which should I focus? (A good thesis is not too broad—it has a somewhat narrow focus).*

 *What is my perspective or interpretation or solution to this issue? Why is this important?*

After brainstorming the above questions, try to answer the following:

*If I only had one single, simple statement in which to convey my thoughts, what would that statement be?*

Your answer (above) should be your thesis.