



Multidisciplinary Tutorial Services’ Thesis Statement for Research Papers

What: A thesis statement is a sentence or two that provides an overview of what an essay or research paper is about, and it is a crucial element to strong writing. There are many types of thesis statements, but the thesis statement most used at Wayland is research related.

Where: A thesis statement is most commonly found at the end of the first paragraph. A thesis statement encompasses the whole idea of the paper and condenses it so that the reader is prepared for what the paper is about. This introductory feature of a thesis statement means that it is most often found at the beginning of the paper in the introduction paragraph, especially for research writing.

When: Most papers require a thesis statement, and due to its purpose of condensing the idea of the paper, it is often the last element of the paper to be finished. Since a thesis statement encompasses the whole idea of the paper, you may not know every detail of the paper until it is finished. As such, keep in mind that your thesis statement may be finalized after the paper has been written.

How: It helps to develop a research paper and thesis statement by starting with a question. In your thesis statement, answer that question. From there, you will develop at least 3 points or ideas that prove your answer and write a paragraph for each point. Mention those 3 points or ideas in your thesis to prove the answer to your research question.

Tips:

Start with a research question and answer it

Present the three main points or ideas of the paper to prove your answer

Keep running notes of the points and ideas as they develop while writing your paper

Remember that a thesis statement evolves with the paper and may be finished last

Example:

Isolation is a recurring theme in *Frankenstein* that manifests in Victor Frankenstein through his obsession and ambition that caused him to emotionally isolate from his family, and also in the Monster who experienced social isolation due to appearance. Both states of isolation were inspired from Mary Shelley’s own experience.

Research Question: Is isolation a recurring theme in *Frankenstein*?

Answer: “Isolation is a recurring theme in *Frankenstein*”

Point 1: “Victor Frankenstein through his obsession and ambition that caused him to emotionally isolate”

Point 2: “the Monster who experiences social isolation due to appearance”

Point 3: “both states of isolation were inspired from Mary Shelley’s own experience”

Start with a research question

What is the answer to your research question?

What points or ideas will you use to prove your answer to this question?

Point One:

Point Two:

Point Three:

Answer the research question utilizing the three points or ideas.
