

Elements of a Thesis Statement

The thesis statement is the core of your entire essay, controlling all of the ideas contained within your paper. It lets your reader know what topic you will be talking about as well as what claim you are making about that topic. A solid thesis statement gives a solid foundation for how to develop and structure your essay. Keep in mind that your thesis statement might change as you write your paper and develop your ideas.

Core Elements of a Thesis Statement:

Argument: what is the main idea that you are going to prove?

Main points: what evidence will you use to prove your argument?

Optional:

Counter-argument: an alternate theory or an opinion contrary to your argument.

Here is a basic formula for how to fit these elements within a thesis statement:

[Although/ Despite/ Even though]

Counter-argument	,	Main point 1
Main point 2	, and	Main point 3
[prove / show / mean] that		
Argument/Claim		

Example:

Argument: Cats (topic) are the best pets (claim).

Evidence: Cats are self-sufficient. Cats are clean. Cats are emotionally stable.

Counter-Argument: Cats are stubborn.

Thesis: Although cats can be stubborn, their self-sufficiency, cleanliness, and emotional stability prove that they make the best pets.

The elements of a thesis statement can be re-arranged in a variety of ways in order to suit your topic. Here are some examples:

Argument because *Main point 1*, *Main point 2* and *Main point 3*.

Example: *Cats make the best pets* because they are *self-sufficient*, *clean*, and *emotionally stable*.

Main point 1, *Main point 2*, and *Main point 3*. This results in *Argument*.

Example: *Cats are self-sufficient*, *clean*, and *emotionally stable*. This means that *cats make the best pets*.