

A thesis statement is a sentence that does two things: 1) announces the author’s opinion and 2) provides reasoning which grounds that opinion in fact. Why write a thesis statement? For the writer of the paper, a thesis statement helps keep the writing focused on the goal of elaborating on the logic behind the statement. For the reader, a thesis statement helps the reader understand the purpose of the paper. It is important to note that a thesis statement probably should **not** be written before doing research since a strong thesis statement has evidence to back up the opinion.

Sample Thesis

The United States’ public school system has been known to display prejudice and discriminatory attitudes towards minority students by enforcing standard English requirements through speech classes, discouraging students from pursuing subjects like language and writing, and standardized tests.

Author’s opinion	The United States’ public school system has been known to display prejudice and discriminatory attitudes towards minority students
Reason #1	The United States’ public school system enforces standard English requirements through speech classes.
Reason #2	The United States’ public school system discourages students from pursuing subjects like language and writing.
Reason # 3	The United States’ public school system administers standardized tests.

Activity: Make your own thesis statement

Step 1) Using the information found in your research, fill out the box below:

Your opinion	
Reason #1	
Reason #2	
Reason # 3	

Step 2) Combine the ideas written above to make a thesis statement:
