

## Thesis Statements

The most important part of your argumentative paper is your **thesis statement**. The **thesis statement** is where you state, in exactly one sentence, the position you will argue. Work to make this statement as concise and clear as possible.

*Middle schools should require students to wear uniforms.*

You should include your supporting points in your thesis as a “road map” of where your argument will go.

*Middle schools should require students to wear uniforms because this policy will lessen bullying, distractions in class, and school expenses for parents.*

Thesis statements do not need to hedge or nuance. Your paper will discuss opposing opinions and cases where your thesis may not completely apply. However, that discussion should not leak into your thesis statement because your reader needs to know clearly what you are arguing.

Make sure that your thesis statement is argumentative. There should be intelligent, moral people who disagree with your thesis. Ask yourself who these opponents would be, and start thinking about what legitimate disagreements they may have. While you should not attempt to discuss those in your thesis statement, you should be very sure that there are opposing viewpoints. Some good controversial topics include abortion, capital punishment, gay marriage, gun control, sex education/abstinence-only education in schools, etc. Each of these topics has two sides which can be argued. Here are some examples of statements that are not argumentative enough. While each of these is compelling, who would be able to make a solid argument to the contrary?

*Everyone should exercise regularly because it will make them healthier.*

*Child abuse is absolutely wrong and should stop.*

If you are not sure whether the thesis statement you are considering is argumentative enough, send it to your teacher in a message for feedback.

In American academic writing, the thesis statement is typically the final sentence of your introduction.