

# THESIS STATEMENT

## PURPOSE

- Communicate the specific topic, the main message, or theme.
- Possibly identify the subtopics.
- Possibly indicate the organization style and writer position.
- Engage the audience.
- Connect all parts of the document.
- Prepare the audience for the upcoming document.

## COMMON PROBLEMS

- Thesis statement is presented as a question.  
**X** *How is biomimicry important to solve design problems?*
- Thesis statement is too general.  
**X** *Biomimicry solves design problems.*
- Thesis statement is presented like an announcement.  
**X** *This paper will discuss how biomimicry solves design problems.*
- Thesis statement contains obvious facts.  
**X** *Biomimicry is application of nature to solve design problems.*

## Length and Position

- Depending on the depth and goal(s) of the paper, a thesis statement can be one or two sentences.
- Location can be at the end of the introduction or near the beginning of the paper.

## Components

- Main topic  
*Biomimicry*
- Position or focus  
*Important to designers*
- Evidence  
*Make best use of productivity*  
*Sustainability*

Example:

*Biomimicry is important to designers for its productivity and sustainability.*

- ✓ Creation will depend on the audience, purpose, and genre.
- ✓ Language is carefully chosen.



## Different Types of Thesis Statements

Explanatory Thesis Statement	Argumentative thesis Statement
Announces topic	Presents claim that stimulates disagreement

## Creating the Thesis Statement

- Determine the task (e.g. argumentative, expository, analysis, contrast, comparative, or classification).
- Using the prompt from instructor task, create a research question.
- Research question to further refine the thesis statement.
- Plan to provide claim and add specific details.
- Draft to add more details if necessary.
- Redraft as required.
- Confirm goal of task.
- Edit if required.
- Evaluate the final thesis statement:
  - 1) Concise
    - Has a clear main point that is not too general or too specific
    - Uses words carefully
  - 2) Disputable
    - Holds a position
    - Provides evidence to attract audience
  - 3) Coherent
    - Presents logically well-connected evidence

### NOTES:

A thesis statement can change and evolve as the paper progresses.

Be sure to follow expectations for audience, and instructors.

## Checklist

Does the thesis statement:

- ✓ introduce the essay topic(s) or claim(s)?
- ✓ suggest discussions?
- ✓ structure the essay?
- ✓ use appropriate word choices?

### Sources:

(MLA 8<sup>th</sup> Edition)

Asplin, Wendy, et al. "Academic Essays." Final Draft, Cambridge University Press, New York, NY, 2016, pp. 32–33.

Marshall, Steve. "Introductions." Advance in Academic Writing, Level 1, Pearson Education ESL, Montreal, QC, 2019, pp. 86–87.

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Troyka, Lynn Quitman, et al. "Planning and Shaping." Simon & Schuster Handbook for Writers, 4th ed., Pearson Prentice Hall, Toronto, ON, 2006, pp. 41–43.

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