THESIS STATEMENT

ENGLISH FOR ACADEMIC SUPPORT

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 designs 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.

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.

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.
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.

Different Types of Thesis Statements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Explanatory Thesis Statement</th>
<th>Argumentative thesis Statement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Announces topic</td>
<td>Presents claim that stimulates disagreement</td>
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Checklist

Does the thesis statement:
-Introduction the essay topic(s) or claim(s)?
- Suggest discussions?
- Structure the essay?
- Use appropriate word choices?

Sources: