

Controversial Issue Thesis Statement

Thesis statement: Your thesis will be the main focus of your research that you are trying to “prove” in your paper. It is usually one to two sentences long at the end of the introduction.

- Thesis must be debatable, focused, and specific. What are you going to argue and WHY?
- Thesis must be supportable with FACTS, STATISTICS, EVIDENCE, EXPERTS, etc.
- Thesis must have a clear topic and YOUR POSITION.
- Thesis must have 3 rationales.

Example 1	Example 2*
<p>Too general thesis: Logging should be illegal.</p> <p>Focused thesis: <u>Redwood tree logging</u> is detrimental to the California North Coast ecosystem because redwoods prevent erosion, provide resources for animals, and reduce pollution; therefore, legislation must be created to stop it.</p> <p>What/Topic = Redwood tree logging</p> <p>Why/Position = Detrimental to CA ecosystem</p> <p>Rationales = prevent erosion, provide resources for animals, reduce pollution</p> <p>How/Position = Legislation must be created to stop it (solution or change needed)</p> <p>Can this thesis be proved with FACTS, STATISTICS, EVIDENCE, EXPERTS?</p> <p>Can the other side be shown with FACTS, STATISTICS, EVIDENCE, EXPERTS?</p>	<p>Too general thesis: Young people are too influenced by the media.</p> <p>Focused thesis: Laws must be created to require diverse body representations in magazine advertisements because portrayals of extreme thinness contribute to the rise of eating disorders, exacerbate adolescent mental health issues, and fail to reflect the diversity of real people.</p> <p><i>*Example 2 from Connors Writing Center UNH</i></p> <p>What/Topic = frequent use of unusually thin models in magazines</p> <p>Why/Position = extremely thin models in magazine ads are harmful</p> <p>Rationales = contribute to the rise of eating disorders, exacerbate adolescent mental health issues, and fail to reflect the diversity of real people</p> <p>How/Position = laws created to require diverse body representation</p> <p>Can this thesis be proved with FACTS, STATISTICS, EVIDENCE, EXPERTS?</p> <p>Can the other side be shown with FACTS, STATISTICS, EVIDENCE, EXPERTS?</p>

1. Now use the checklist to make sure your thesis statement has all the information you need. If you cannot check off all points, rewrite your thesis until you can.

- It is debatable (people would argue about the topic and/or solution).
- Is it specific, but still open enough to write an essay about? (not too general)
- I did not use “I think” “I feel” or “I” or “you” at all. If I did, I will cross it out.
- Do you have the What/Topic, Why/Position, and How/Position?
- Can your thesis be proved with FACTS, STATISTICS, EVIDENCE, and EXPERTS?
- Can the other side be shown with FACTS, STATISTICS, EVIDENCE, and EXPERTS?
- Have I named 3 rationales that I will be arguing?