

Thesis Statement: A Formulaic Approach

- 1. Topic:** What are you discussing in your paper. Be specific.
- 2. Opinion of the Topic:** What are your views? What will you be arguing regarding your topic?
- 3. Connections between evidence:** You've heard of providing a list of the examples and evidence you're going to use. But a more eloquent method is to find a connection between the pieces of evidence; use this connection in your thesis.

Despite the Soviet crackdown on freedom of expression, Russian filmmaker Grigori Chukray¹ was able to explore and expand the boundaries of cinema² by masking his films as pro-Soviet despite negative portrayals of Soviet oppression³.

Mother Teresa¹ was able to help so many impoverished people² because of her unwavering faith in her religion³.

David de Rothschild's voyage on the Plastiki¹ positively impacted the Pacific Garbage Patch² by drawing awareness to the situation³.

Remember that a thesis statement needs to convey an argument—something that can be argued or debated. It shouldn't be a statement of fact. And the more focused, the better—too broad makes it difficult to analyze all the necessary arguments!

Directions: Read the following 6 thesis statements. Comment on whether each one is good or bad and why. If it's bad, fix to make it better.

1. Bono, of U2, has both helped and hindered the issues surround AIDS because he promotes awareness by he also trivializes it through his music and the strange multimedia elements of his shows.
2. Greg Mortenson helped to educated many Pakistani children by writing *Three Cups of Tea*.
3. Malala Yousafzai has helped the world and women's rights.
4. Jane Goodall proactively saved the chimpanzees by drawing awareness to them, fighting poachers through her campaigning, and by promoting new legislation to protect them.
5. I think the use of the color red as a symbol in Bram Stoker's *Dracula* was done really well.
6. Princess Diana helped the world by tackling AIDS and land mine issues.

Now, on the back, write out your thesis statement for your paper in five different ways. When done, rank them in order from best to worst.

