

Constructing a Thesis Statement

WS# 1.1

A thesis statement is the controlling idea of a composition. It states the main idea(s) of the writing while establishing the tone.

IN A SINGLE SENTENCE, THE **THESIS STATEMENT** DECLARES THE **MAIN SUBJECT** AND A **FEELING/ATTITUDE** ABOUT THAT SUBJECT.



Writing a Thesis Statement

subject (Cancún, Mexico's metamorphosis from drowsy fishing village to vacation paradise)

+ **a specific feeling about the subject** (is a simple story of determination and luck)

= **an effective thesis statement**

Thesis Statement: Cancún, Mexico's metamorphosis from drowsy fishing village to vacation paradise is a simple story of determination and luck.

Defining Your Subject

1. Consider the information that you have gathered and decide what specifically you would like to discuss in your research.
the metamorphosis of Cancún, Mexico, from a drowsy fishing village to a vacation paradise
2. Put your idea into a form of a question.
What type of metamorphosis took place in Cancún, Mexico?
3. Now turn your question into a sentence that states exactly what you would like to declare about your subject.
Cancún, Mexico's metamorphosis from drowsy fishing village to vacation paradise is a simple story of determination and luck.

Evaluating a Thesis Statement

WS# 1.1

Thesis Structure

- (1) Develop your thesis from information gathered.
- (2) Include both a limited topic as your subject and the specific feeling you have about the topic as your main idea.
- (3) Be clear and specific.
- (4) Use parallel structures.
- (5) Keep your thesis in front of you as you write.

Thesis Do's

- (1) Must be an opinion. Do not use *I, me, my, or mine*.
- (2) Must have 2 or 3 points that will be developed.
- (3) Must be supported with research or other types of support.

Thesis Review

How well the writer has focused on and supported his or her thesis determines the quality of a paper. A good thesis statement can answer *yes* to the following:

- Does your thesis clearly define a specific opinion on some subject?
- Is the thesis stated in a clear, direct sentence?
- Is your thesis supported by the information you have gathered?
- Is your thesis located as the last sentence in the introductory paragraph?

Statements to Avoid

- (1) DON'T make your thesis merely an announcement of your subject matter or a description of your intentions. DO NOT use phrases like "I'm going to write about" or "This paper is about"
- (2) DON'T clutter your thesis with expressions such as "in my opinion," "I believe" and "I think that"