

Writing a Thesis Statement

A thesis statement is a short, one-sentence summary of the main point of a research paper. We want this statement to inform the reader where we are headed. Thesis statements have a very specific format. They state the topic and then they include at least three subtopics that the paper is going to explore. **For our purposes, the thesis statement will always appear as the last line in the first paragraph of your paper.**

Below are several examples of good thesis statements.

Example 1: LeBron James is one of basketball's greatest players of all time based on his personal statistics, the success of the teams he's played for, and the amount of merchandise that's been sold bearing his name.

Example 2: Due to his influence while playing with Nirvana, the success of the Foo Fighters, and the total sales of the albums on which he appears, Dave Grohl is one of rock-and-roll's greatest musicians.

Example 3: The Blue Angels are one of the world's greatest aerobatic teams because of their rigorous training, their top-quality candidates, and their amazing aircraft.

Example 4: For mountain climbers, Mount Everest is the greatest challenge because of its amazing height, its remote location, and the dangerous path leading to its summit.

Example 5: Martin Luther King Jr. was one of our country's most influential leaders, and his greatest moments were the formation of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the march on Washington in 1963, and his participation in the Selma voting rights movement.

Example 6: Because of its incredible range, its many different capabilities, and the influence that its discoveries have had on the field of astronomy, the Hubble Space Telescope is one of the most important scientific tools in the past 200 years.

Example 7: The three most dangerous spiders in the world are feared because of their aggressive nature, the frequency with which they are found, and their poisonous bites.

Example 8: The life of Edward “Blackbeard” Teach was fascinating, from his mysterious early days, through his marauding pirating years, until his dramatic death in 1718.

Example 9: Yellowstone National Park is a wonderful place to visit due to its remarkable rock formations, its active geyser and hydrothermal system, and its varied plants and animals.

Example 10: The Hindenburg airship disaster has captured people’s interest for years because of the frightening nature of the crash, the mystery surrounding the cause of the accident, and the extensive media coverage of the event at the time.