

# Thesis Guide

A **thesis** is a proposition stated or put forward for consideration, especially one to be discussed and proved or to be maintained against objections.

Often, the thesis is the most difficult piece of an essay for new writers to create. However, with a few simple steps, this process can be made much easier.

1. Start with a question -> and then make the answer your thesis. Regardless of how complex a topic you are exploring, almost any thesis can be constructed by answering a question.

**Question:** "What are the benefits of using computers in a fourth-grade classroom?"

**Thesis:** "Computers allow fourth graders an early advantage in technological and scientific education."

2. Tailor your thesis to the type of paper you are writing. Every essay is not a persuasive essay, nor is it always an informative essay. Deciding which category your essay falls under will help your thesis develop into a more concise point.

- **Analytical:** Breaks down something to better examine and understand it.

- a. Ex. "This dynamic between different generations sparks much of the play's tension, as age becomes a motive for the violence and unrest that rocks King Lear."

- **Expository:** Teaches or illuminates a point.

- b. Ex. "The explosion of 1800's philosophies like Positivism, Marxism, and Darwinism undermined and refuted Christianity to instead focus on the real, tangible world."

- **Argumentative:** Makes a claim, or backs up an opinion, to change other people's minds.

- c. Ex. "Without the steady hand and specific decisions of Barack Obama, America would never have recovered from the hole it entered in the early 2000's."

3. Take a specific stance to make your thesis more powerful. You should address a single issue in great detail so as to allow your points to be fully supported within your paper. Consider the following:
  - Wordsworth uses time and passage of time as a tool to comment on individuals, their societies, as well as the effect of nature on them, so as to effectively present the fragile span of human existence.
  - While it is possible to create a work with little interaction between the mimetic and fantastic, it is at the expense of greater depth and exploration of character and sacrifices what could be crucial parts of an untold story.
4. Make your argument stand out. The best theses find a new, interesting way to explore the topic. They strive to separate themselves from the old and used, instead finding different techniques to approach a subject.
5. Ensure your thesis is provable. Do not come up with a thesis that you have no background on. Your thesis is the end point of your research and you need to be able to back it up with evidence in your paper.

*For the following questions, provide a thesis statement in response. Make sure you follow the steps above to ensure your thesis is strong and well developed.*

**Question:** What causes people to believe in supernatural elements such as ghosts?

**Thesis**

**Question:** Does social media have an adverse effect on self confidence?

**Thesis:**

**Question:** How does one's perception of the environment influence their life choices?

**Thesis:**

**Question:** Why is it important to vote in a democratic country?

**Thesis:**

**Question:** How can reading at a young age improve mental capacity as one grows?

**Thesis:**

**Question:** How can we solve the problem of cyber-bullying?

**Thesis:**

**Question:** Should every child be required to go to school from 5 to 18?

**Thesis:**

*For the following thesis statements, provide a question that they might seek to answer. Use the textual evidence to determine what the thesis is searching to achieve, or answer.*

**Question:**

**Thesis:** While there is an increasing amount of healthy alternatives on the market, parents continue to fill their children with a plethora of sugar and additives in the form of cereal, which directly correlates to the increasing rates of obesity and weight related health problems within Western civilization.

**Question:**

**Thesis:** When an object enters water, it becomes wet, when an object enters a fire, it becomes burnt, yet the fire itself is not burnt and thus, water is not, nor can it become, wet.

**Question:**

**Thesis:** Microwaves are a critical staple of most households today, due to their multi-purpose of warming up food for consumption, defrosting objects for cooking, heating up certain household objects such as heating pads, and even setting timers for a variety of activities.

**Question:**

**Thesis:** People move to Saskatchewan for a number of reasons, but the most prevalent are certainly jobs, family, availability of services, and proximity to community organizations.