



GLOBAL ISSUES RESEARCH PROJECT

Writing a Thesis

THESIS STATEMENT

All good writing contains a thesis.

Every sentence in the writing in some way points back to the thesis.

It is the main idea, the controlling thought, theme.

Thesis = Target

1. Sentence
2. Paragraph
3. Quote
4. All support and evidence



WRITING THE WORKING THESIS

After some research, it's important to draft a working thesis.

Keep in mind the working thesis may change as you research and learn more about your topic.

Revision is a key part of good writing.

TWO OBJECTIVES OF A THESIS

1. It is a statement of your topic
2. Thesis conveys what you will prove about your topic.

THESIS GENERATOR

Identify the subject (topic) of your paper

- Famines in Ethiopia

Turn your subject into a guiding question.

- Why does Ethiopia suffer from repeated famines?

Answer your question with a statement.

- Climate change caused droughts; corrupt government taking humanitarian aid and the inadequacy of a country relying on help from outside its borders

Refine this statement into a working thesis.

Working Thesis: Ethiopia has been hit three-fold; repeated drought, government corruption and inadequate humanitarian aid.

THESIS IS NOT A TITLE NOR AN ANNOUNCEMENT

Title	Thesis	Announcement	Thesis
Homes and School	Parents ought to participate more in the education of their children.	I want to share with you some thoughts about our space program.	Our space program is a waste of money.
Celebrity Responsibility	Celebrities should use their status to improve the world by championing causes close to their personal interests.	The thesis of this paper is the difficulty of solving our environmental problems.	Solving our environmental problems is more difficult than many environmentalists believe.

A GOOD THESIS STATEMENT IS RESTRICTED

A good thesis statement deals with restricted, bite size issues rather than issues that would require a lifetime to discuss intelligently. The more restricted the thesis, the better the chances are for supporting it fully.

Poor	Better
The world is in a terrible mess.	The United Nations should be given more peacekeeping powers.
People are too selfish.	Human selfishness is seen at its worst during rush hour in large urban areas.
Crime must be stopped.	Our courts should hand out tougher sentences to habitual criminals.

A GOOD THESIS STATEMENT IS UNIFIED

The thesis statement expresses one major idea about its subject. The tight structural strength of a paper depends on its working to support that one idea.

Poor	Better
Detective stories are not a high form of literature, but people have always been fascinated by them, and many fine writers have experimented with them.	Detective stories appeal to the basic human desire for solving mysteries.
The new health program is excellent, but it has several drawbacks, and it should be run only on an experimental basis for two or three years.	Despite its general excellence, the new health program should be run only on an experimental basis for two or three years.

STRONG THESIS

Hint: a great many clear and engaging thesis statements contain words like: because, since, so, although, unless, and however