



## CREATING THE PERFECT THESIS

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**THE THESIS STATEMENT IS USED TO CLARIFY THE MAIN IDEA OF YOUR PAPER, TO HELP YOU STAY ON TOPIC AND TO GIVE YOUR WRITING A SENSE OF DIRECTION**

THINK OF THE THESIS AS THE THEME. THAT MEANS THE THESIS EXPLAINS THE **MAIN POINT** OF THE ENTIRE ESSAY.

### **THE THESIS SHOULD:**

- BE FOCUSED & CLEAR
  - EASILY FOUND
  - CLEARLY STATE THE WRITER'S DEFINED OPINION
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## MOST IMPORTANTLY, A THESIS MUST NOT BE A COMMENT, BUT AN ARGUABLE STATEMENT

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**Example of a Non-Thesis:** Alabama A&M is a prestigious institution

This is a non-thesis because it is just a comment and not an arguable statement. It does not lend itself to an OPPOSING view because it does not list the reason WHY the writer believes A&M to be prestigious. There are too many possibilities for the points that may follow from this statement for reader to know this is an argument.

**Example of a Thesis:** Alabama A&M University is a prestigious institution because it is a historical black university; its students achieve academic success, and the university value is to be of service to the community.

In this example, the thesis is clear. It states the writer's opinion and WHY they feel the way they do about A&M. Here there is an opportunity for an OPPOSING view on any of the specific points listed. Also, the reasons listed preview the argument that will follow in the rest of the paper.

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FOR MORE HELP WITH THESIS  
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