

# Thesis Statement

Thesis /θi:sɪs/ (n) a statement or theory that is put forward as a premise to be maintained or proved.

## 1st

Determine what kind of essay you are writing - discursive /argumentative, comparative, expository, narrative or descriptive.

## 2nd

Write the purpose of your essay in its simplest form. Use first person so that your intentions are clear in your mind.

*I will compare x and y to see which one performs better for the purpose of z.*

## 3rd

You should have already planned the overall structure of the essay. Depending on the length of the essay, you may wish to organise your work section by section, or paragraph by paragraph.

This is necessary to 'signpost' i.e. explain to the reader how you aim to address the question.

*I will begin by looking at the strengths of x. This will be followed by looking at the strengths of y. The final section will compare the weaknesses of both x and y."*

## 4th

Now, carefully decide on the verbs that you will use in your thesis statement and for your signposting. The verbs you use will determine how to approach your writing and make your intentions clear to the reader.

Verbs such as, compare, analyse, determine, establish, demonstrate, highlight etc. See the full list - [Academic Verbs for Introductions](#).

## 5th

You now have two choices:

1. Write in third person - *This essay will compare x and y.*
2. Use the passive voice - *X and y will be compared.*

It is generally accepted that the passive voice is more 'academic'. Check with your institution on their preferred 'voice'.

You may wish to present your thesis and then signpost, or vice versa.

## (6th)

You may wish to include your conclusion as part of the overall thesis. Rather than leave your thesis open ended, you explicitly state the final conclusion.

*For example, It will be proven that y outperforms x in the situation of z. In the first section of this essay, the strengths of both x and y are analysed. Their respective weaknesses are then highlighted. Using these findings, it can be determined that y is more effective than x.*

As you can see, there are various ways to formulate a thesis statement - this is part of adding your 'voice' to your work. Please see [Academic Introductions](#) for more.