

The Thesis Statement

A thesis statement is found in your introduction, generally towards the end, and tells the reader what argument you will make in your paper. A thesis statement is absolutely essential to a successful paper.

A thesis statement:

- Is **narrow** instead of broad: when your thesis is narrow, it is far easier to support
- Is **specific** rather than vague or general: your reader should know exactly what you are going to argue
- Is the **main idea** and not the title of your paper: your thesis does not just state your topic, but states the argument surrounding that topic
- **Takes a stand** rather than just announcing a subject: the reader should be able to tell what your position is by reading your thesis statement

A thesis statement that is too vague:

The role of women in Canada during World War II was very important.

A more focused thesis statement:

Although their role is often neglected in history texts, is undeniable that Canadian women played a vital role during World War II. By working in industries in Canada, providing medical attention to soldiers and playing the role of primary caregiver to families, women were as essential as men to the war effort.

Sample Introduction

Globalization is a socially polarizing movement. Some people view it as the way of the future, while others see it as the source of current global discontent. Over the past half-century, leaders in the global economic system have encouraged the liberalization of the free market in hopes that globalization could spread the wealth of developing nations to the rest of the world. In recent years, however, awareness of the detriments of globalization has increased. Activist groups, non-governmental organizations, and developing governments have put increasing scrutiny on the organizations that power globalization, the most important of which are the World Trade Organization, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the governments of wealthy nations. Close analysis of case studies and comprehensive statistics shows that the hypocrisy of institutions and of wealthy nations, as well as the rigidity of the global economic system, have prevented the benefits of globalization from reaching the world's poorest nations. (Hamilton College Writing Centre:

http://www.hamilton.edu/academics/resource/wc/Intro_Thesis.html)