



THESIS STATEMENTS

What is a thesis statement?

- A thesis statement gives your reader a preview of what your essay will be about. Think back to the movie trailers we watched last time.
- **A thesis statement contains the following:**
- Claim
- Three logical reasons written in parallel structure (**uses the same tense throughout**) that support the claim.
- Uses proper conventions: no run-ons, comma splices, fragments, spelling or grammar errors.
- Word Choice: Avoids vague language, empty words (no-no words), or wishy-washy words.
- Effective Sentence Structure: Avoiding choppy or awkward wording.

Examples of well written thesis statements:

- School uniforms should be mandatory because they eliminate dress code issues, reduce behavioral problems, and provide a sense of unity.
- Cell phones should not be allowed during school hours because they can cause distractions in the classroom, they could end up stolen, and they could be used to cheat.

Examples of poorly written thesis statements:

- College tuition is too expensive, most people can't afford it.
- This paper will discuss how much homework students do each evening.