

The Thesis Statement

Tips for forming your thesis statement

1. A successful thesis statement has two parts: Observation + Insight
The observation section of the thesis tells us what is; the insight section answers the question *so what?* why should we care? how is this different from what we have assumed? what is the solution to this dilemma? Often the two parts of the thesis are connected by *because*.
2. Don't rush. You may have a question or topic area but are unable to form a thesis until you have written the body of your paper. A thesis is, after all, an insight or conclusion you must earn by writing and thinking. Often good writers do not begin working with a full-blown thesis in mind.

Example 1: Women were not honored for service in Vietnam until 1993 because cultural forces operated to suppress information about women in combat and non-combat roles.

Example 2: Scientists from several nations have challenged global warming theories, claiming they are more propaganda than science.

Example 3: Because the polygraph has proven more reliable than previously thought, the Supreme Court is reconsidering the test's admissibility as evidence.