

How do you write a thesis  
statement for an argumentative  
essay?

In this lesson you will draft a thesis statement for your argumentative essay by combining your claim and supporting reasons.

## Let's Review

Choosing a topic



Finding Supporting Evidence

# A Common Mistake

Writing a paper that lacks focus.

## School Lunches

- ✓ #1 Not enough food
- ✓ #2 Doesn't taste good
- ✗ #3 Too much homework

# Core Lesson

Think back to your free write and determine your major claim.

I worry about school lunches because the food does not taste good. When I go to lunch, there are not many options and we tend to get the same thing every day. The food doesn't seem very healthy, since they serve us pizza and hot dogs most days. I wonder if they even consider health when planning the menu? Because I don't like the lunches most days, I don't eat very much and it is harder to concentrate in my afternoon classes with a growling stomach.

What is my major question?

Major Claim:


✓ School lunches need to be improved.

Do others feel this way?

## Core Lesson

- 1** State your position (claim) and the reasons for your belief in one full sentence.
- 2** Edit by asking, “Does my thesis statement tell the reader exactly what my paper is going to be about?”

## Core Lesson



What are my reasons for my claim?

School lunches need to be improved because the food does not taste very good, students are not given many choices, and the food is not very healthy.

# Core Lesson

How do I determine if my thesis statement will be effective?

School lunches need to be improved because the food does not taste good, students are not given choices, and the food is not healthy.

Did I state what I will be arguing?

Did I state the reasons for my argument?

Does it clearly tell the reader what my essay will be about?



## Core Lesson

- 1 State your position (claim) and the reasons for your belief in one full sentence.
- 2 Edit by asking, “Does my thesis statement tell the reader exactly what my paper is going to be about?”

In this lesson you learned how to draft  
a thesis statement for your  
argumentative essay by combining  
your claim and supporting reasons.

## Guided Practice

Practice by coming up with your own reasons for why school lunches need to be improved. Then, combine them with the major claim to make a thesis statement.

Major Claim:

School lunches need  
to be improved.



Reason:

#1 \_\_\_\_\_  
#2 \_\_\_\_\_  
#3 \_\_\_\_\_

# Guided Practice

Is my thesis statement effective?

Thesis Statement:

Did I state what I will be arguing?

Did I state the reasons for my argument?

Does it clearly tell the reader what my essay will be about?

## Extension Activities

With a partner, think of a topic you would like to argue and tell your partner in a sentence what your claim is and at least 3 reasons for feeling that way. Ask your partner for feedback on how clear an convincing you were with what you were saying.

## Extension Activities

Look at the op-ed section of a local newspaper and pick an article. In a sentence, summarize what the writer's was arguing. Be sure to include the claim and reasons.

## Extension Activities

Think about a time you were trying to convince someone to let you do something. In a sentence, write what you want to do and the top reasons you think you should be allowed to do it. Try to convince a partner.

## Quick Quiz

On your own, write an effective thesis statement about a topic you wish to argue.