# 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





Finding Supporting Evidence



## A Common Mistake

# Writing a paper that lacks focus.

#### **School Lunches**

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



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.

major question? Major Claim: School lunches need to be improved. Do others feel this way?

What is my

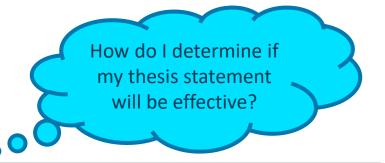
- State your position (claim) and the reasons for your belief in one full sentence.
- Edit by asking, "Does my thesis statement tell the reader exactly what my paper is going to be about?"





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.





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



- State your position (claim) and the reasons for your belief in one full sentence.
- 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.



Reaso	on:	
#1		
#2		<u></u>
#3		



# **Guided Practice**



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.

