

Thesis Statement

Due online by 9am on Tues. 3/5

Visit the Writing Resource Center for assistance drafting your thesis statement. You will find helpful instructions on how to draft a thesis. Within the link you will find additional information, including examples of thesis statement revisions. Read the examples as you draft and revise your thesis before submitting it.

Your thesis statement should:

- contain your **argument**. Make sure that your thesis is not an observation.
- be **one sentence** long. Do not turn in anything longer than one sentence or you will not receive credit. Make every word in the sentence useful and use strong words like descriptive adjectives and transition words to eliminate weak or unneeded words. Prioritize your ideas and think about what is feasible for amount of pages due. This one sentence is important because it serves as a guide for your paper.
- be **specific**. Answer the who, what, when, where and why questions. By including a specific time frame like "during the 19th century" (when) or country or region like "in Jamaica" (where) for example, the reader becomes clearer about your work. A specific thesis also relieves you of the burden of needing to know too much about any given topic... you are only responsible for what you outline in your thesis.
- be **relevant or important**. Ask yourself why should we care about this argument? What does this argument encourage? Is this argument informed and based in my research? If it is not informed, conduct more research.
- provide an **outline** of the paper. See the numbered thesis below. Just as the numbers illustrate, the first section will probably document statistical data to prove that most desks at the college are brown, after the introduction. The second section will document how neutral colors enable better concentration (studies on paint colors used by institutions, behavioral studies etc). The third section will address how bright colors ignite hunger (studies on the use of yellow and red by McDonald's and Wendy's for example). The fourth section will be on how bright colors encourage activity.

Your thesis does *not* need to be numbered, but the reader should be able to understand how your paper is outlined, by reading your thesis.

(I) Most desks at NYCCT are brown because the (II) neutral color enables students to focus, unlike (III) bright colors such as red and yellow that encourage hunger or (IV) activity.