

TYPES OF THESIS STATEMENTS (PART 2)

1. **Analytical**—Breaks down the elements of a topic into its component parts; evaluates issues and ideas in terms of a target focus.
2. **Expository/Exegetical**—Explains or clarifies something to the reader; examines a literary work to reveal its meaning.
3. **Argumentative**—Makes a claim and justifies that claim with specific reasons and evidences; uses logic to answer the “so what” question and to persuade the reader to respond to the writer’s argument.

TIP: Include a modified version of your thesis statement at the beginning of your concluding paragraph before calling the reader to act or respond.

CRAFTING THE THREE TYPES OF THESIS STATEMENTS

Your thesis statement will vary depending on the length and complexity of the assignment but will still contain the fundamentals of a thesis statement: the claim and organizing principle. (See “Thesis Statements: Part 1” for more information.)

1. **Analytical: The thesis statement below breaks down the topic into three points within its organizing principle.**
 - a. Succeeding in college requires a willingness to learn and ask questions, determination to study and work hard, and discernment to manage time wisely.
2. **Expository/Exegetical: The thesis statement below makes a clear claim about a literary character and then expounds on that claim in the organizing principle.**
 - a. John Proctor was a tumultuous character in *The Crucible* with redemptive qualities evidenced through his willing confession of sin, forgiveness of self, and sacrifice.*
3. **Argumentative: The thesis statement below makes a defensible argument and addresses a specific audience. These types of thesis statements often propose solutions.**
 - a. Although many college professors believe writing and critical thinking go hand in hand, recent studies show that **students who earn excellent grades on papers still lack critical thinking skills**; as a result, college faculty should set high expectations for their students by creating assignment prompts that assess these higher-order skills.

*Adapted from the PowerPoint Presentation “Composing Thesis Statements” by the Regent University Writing Center (2015)

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