



# Thesis Statement

## Developing a Working Thesis

A thesis statement gives a paper focus and expresses a clear, committed belief or insight about a topic. A strong thesis statement creates tension or makes a significant point to reflect the writer’s purpose; a weak thesis merely announces the topic or purpose, says the obvious, or is too vague. Consider the following examples of weak and strong thesis statements as you compose a thesis statement for your own paper.

### ***Weak thesis statements:***

William Zinsser’s article “Clutter” is humorous. **(Too general)**

The purpose of my paper is to discuss why William Zinsser’s article “Clutter” is an exaggerated discussion about eliminating wordiness from essays. **(An announcement)**

### ***Strong thesis statement:***

William Zinsser’s article “Clutter” presents exaggerated examples to help students eliminate wordiness from their essays; however, Zinsser’s use of sarcasm and outdated references may prevent some students from comprehending the author’s viewpoint and appreciating his sense of humor. **(Creates tension, makes a significant point, and presents the writer’s purpose)**

How to generate a thesis:

1. Identify the <i>subject</i> of your paper.	William Zinsser’s article “Clutter” is about eliminating wordiness from essays.
2. Turn your subject into a guiding question.	Does Zinsser do a good job of getting his point across to his audience?
3. Answer your question with a statement.	Zinsser does not do a good job of getting his point across to his audience.
4. Refine this statement into a <i>working</i> thesis.	William Zinsser’s article “Clutter” presents exaggerated examples to help students eliminate wordiness from their essays; however, Zinsser’s use of sarcasm and outdated references may prevent some students from comprehending the author’s viewpoint and appreciating his sense of humor.

Now, you can use the generator to develop your own thesis:

1. Identify the <i>subject</i> of your paper.	
2. Turn your subject into a guiding question.	
3. Answer your question with a statement.	
4. Refine this statement into a <i>working</i> thesis.	