

Thesis Statements

Think about your essay assignment. Write answers to these questions. An example of how to fill this page out follows.

Step 1: What question do you want to answer in your paper? Maybe it's one your instructor has given to you or one of your own.

Step 2: What is your paper topic? This can be just a few words that describe your main idea (it might help to think of this as your title).

Step 3: What is your position? That is, what do you believe to be *true* about your topic?

Step 4: What exceptions or counter-arguments are there to your ideas? That is, what disagreements might others have? List them here. You might start your explanation with: *In spite of or Despite.*

Step 5: Why do you think you are right, even though some people might disagree?

Think of all the information you have written about here. Now, put it together in one or two sentences that will form your thesis statement.

Thesis Statements: Sample

Think about your essay assignment. Write answers to these questions. An example of how to fill this page out follows.

Step 1: What question do you want to answer in your paper? Maybe it's one your instructor has given to you or one of your own.

Should smoking be made illegal in all public places?

Step 2: What is your paper topic? This can be just a few words that describe your main idea (it might help to think of this as your title).

Smoking is bad for everyone: Make it illegal

Step 3: What is your position? That is, what do you believe to be *true* about your topic?

I believe that smoking is unhealthy, not just for the people who smoke, but for the people around them. They also create a lot of litter by throwing cigarettes on the ground.

Step 4: What exceptions or counter-arguments are there to your ideas? That is, what disagreements might others have? List them here. You might start your explanation with: *In spite of* or *Despite*.

In spite of the fact that smoking is unhealthy, many people believe that it is their right to do what they want with their own health, and they believe smoking is enjoyable.

Step 5: Why do you think you are right, even though some people might disagree?

I believe that even though some people want their rights, other people have a right to breathe clean air and not see cigarette trash on the ground.

Think of all the information you have written about here. Now, put it together in one or two sentences that will form your thesis statement.

Although many people believe that smoking should be an individual choice, in fact, smoking harms people and should be made illegal in public places.