Thesis Statements

A thesis statement is **your position or argument about a subject**. It should reveal a perceptive point that can be objectively proven.

Imagine a friend passing you in the hall asks you what your paper is about. You only have a few seconds. What would you say?

Could your concluding argument influence your thesis?

What type of essay is this?	What is the subject of my essay?	What is the main idea of my essay?	What is the significance of my main idea?
Argumentative	Most people believe that computers are a welcomed change to modern life,	but, ironically, they have increased rather than decreased the amount of time employees spend at work.	To maximize productivity and improve employee morale, employers should be more mindful of how they implement new technology into the workplace.
Analysis	Patients with schizophrenia	present as having limited typical emotional responses,	often helping to identify accompanying symptoms of the illness, such as paranoia and delusions.
Expository	International college students	often face unique social and academic challenges,	which ultimately define the quality of their college experience.

Information gathered from CSUSM Writing Center resources.

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Below are examples of different levels of thesis statements and what contributes to each score;

Prompt	Identify three traits (e.g. social, political, economic, geographical, environmental) that contributed to the "Rise of Civilization."	• Give context by defining XYZ (three traits). • Develop how XYZ relates to your controlling idea. • Explain the significance of your claim.
Level 1	Agriculture, religion, and world trade helped the "Rise of Civilization."	• Simply restates the prompt • Weak, uncompelling word choice • Which qualities of agriculture/religion/world trade contributed to the rise of civilization?
Level 2	Successful agriculture, diverse religion, and world trade allowed humans to thrive in the ancient world.	• Working thesis • More detailed key points • How did these traits contribute to the rise of civilization?
Level 3	Ancient civilizations arose from the domestication of plants and animals, the diversification of established religions and philosophies, and the cross-cultural exchange of ideas and goods through world trade.	• Complex key points • Clear context, claim, and significance • Effectively outlines argument • Utilizes strong, active verbs and adjectives

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