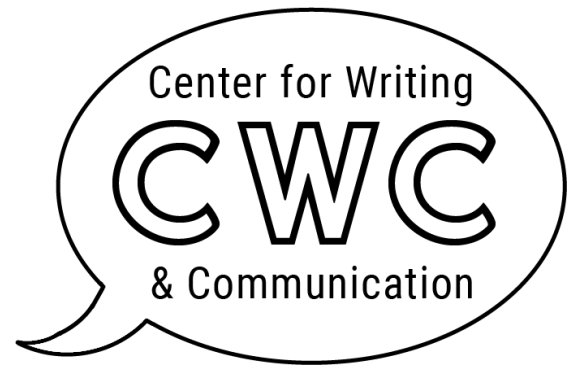


Writing a Thesis: Starting Out Strong



So what **IS** a thesis??

A thesis is a strong statement that you can prove with evidence. It is *not* a simple statement of fact. A thesis statement should be the product of your own critical thinking *after* you have done some research. Your thesis statement will be the main idea of your entire project. It can also be thought of as the *angle* or *point of view* from which you present your material.

- You can present your thesis statement in your introduction, prove it with evidence in the body of your paper, project, or presentation, and finally restate it along with a summary of your evidence in your conclusion.
- To write your thesis, look at the kinds of information you have been finding while taking notes. Decide what kind of statement you have enough evidence to prove. (Be sure that you have done enough research to make a strong argument. You may be challenged.) Write that as your thesis statement.

Take a look at these **examples**:

Subject: The role of mitochondria in obesity

Topic Question: How do mitochondria control weight?

Thesis: By regulating the rate at which cells metabolize fats, mitochondria play an important role in controlling body weight.

Subject: The uses of horror in the short stories of Nathaniel Hawthorne and Edgar Allen Poe

Topic Question: How do Hawthorne and Poe achieve similar Gothic effects in spite of using radically different subjects?

Thesis: Although their subjects are different, Hawthorne and Poe achieve similar Gothic effects by delving into the psyches of the characters rather than relying on cheap horror tricks.

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