

TYPES OF THESIS STATEMENTS

Although there is no "correct" way to write a thesis, it can usually be split into two parts. **Part one** is the topic and **part two** is the position or viewpoint of the topic. Below are six types of thesis statements you can use to improve your thesis.

1 EXPLANATION

Part 1: Topic / **Part 2:** Topic explanation

Example: Much of the controversy about abortion is based on differences in the definition of when life begins..

2 CLAIM & SUPPORT

Part 1: Position (point of view) / **Part 2:** Why/Explanation

Example: Chemicals should not be used on home lawns because they pollute the environment, including the water supply.

***Note:** The word "because" always answers the question "why."

3 CONTRASTING VIEWS

Part 1: One view of a topic / **Part 2:** Contrasting view

Example: Some literary critics have argued that The Kite Runner is an important book because of its treatment of Middle Eastern culture, but its most significant aspect is its study of integrity.

***Note:** The word "but" above shows the contrasting viewpoint.

4 PROBLEM & SOLUTION

Part 1: Topic problem / **Part 2:** How it could be solved

Example: Many students get to college unprepared to do research papers, so more research skills should be taught in high schools.

***Note:** The word "so" (or a similar word, such as "therefore") shows the transition from problem to solution.

5 STATUS QUO & WHY IT'S WRONG

Part 1: Topic and current circumstances (status quo) / **Part 2:** Why the status quo needs change

Example: Although the death penalty is currently legal in thirty-one states, it should be abolished primarily because it is inhumane and does not deter violent crime.

***Note:** The word "although" indicates that a contrary position is coming.

6 STATUS QUO & RECOMMENDATION

Part 1: Topic and status quo / **Part 2:** Recommendation

Example: Although teenagers get some exercise in P.E. classes to be healthy, they need a greatly increased activity level outside of P.E. time.

***Note:** The word "although" acknowledges the status quo and the words "they need" recommends improvement