



THESIS STATEMENTS

If you are building a house, you first need to build a foundation. Then come the walls, the roof, and all the other parts. In an essay, the thesis statement serves as the foundation: it is hard to move forward without it.

A thesis statement should have three discernable parts:

1. Topic
2. Link
3. Main Arguments

1. Topic

Your topic serves as the main idea of your project. If you are writing about why deforestation of the rainforest is not economically sound, *deforestation* is going to be your topic. Your topic is the short answer to the question, *What is your paper about?*

If your paper is meant to be persuasive or argumentative, your thesis should take a side, or a **stance**. Your reader should be able to tell what the paper is arguing for or against.

2. Link

You need to connect your topic to your main arguments or evidence. Typically, you can do this using a *because* statement. The link takes you from your general topic to your more specific main arguments.

3. Main Arguments

If your thesis is your foundation, the main arguments are where you build from. Your main arguments should outline the trajectory your paper will follow, and how you will come to prove your point. Readers will expect the arguments that appear in your thesis to appear in your paper. Therefore, main arguments should be able to be proven and argued using evidence.

When you put these three parts together, you end up with a full thesis statement:

The deforestation of the rainforest is not economically sound because the costs of labor, environmental damage, and harm inflicted on indigenous communities outweigh the income it provides.