

The Thesis Statement: Keep it U.R.C.A.L.

Mr. Hebert

What is a Thesis Statement?

- A sentence that explains precisely what you are going to argue in your paper
- It belongs at the end of your introductory paragraph.

A Thesis Statement Should Be

- Unified
- Restricted
- Clear
- Analytical
- Lionesque



Unified

- Your thesis should have ONE focus

Essay Prompt: Write about a job that is rewarding.

- ORIGINAL: Nursing is hard work and it has long hours, but it is very rewarding.
- REVISED: Although nursing is hard work, it is rewarding because nurses help people get well.

Restricted

- Your thesis should be narrow and specific.
- ORIGINAL: Marine biology is a rewarding career path.
- REVISED: Marine biology is a rewarding career path because it involves working with animals, opportunities for travel, and a competitive salary.

Clear

- The thesis should be easy to understand and avoid vague terms or jargon.
- ORIGINAL: Being a scientist is a rewarding career because one can build a spatio-temporal apparatus.
- REVISED: Being a scientist is a rewarding career because one can work with cutting-edge technology and explore new innovations.

Analytical

- Your thesis should not just announce the topic.
- It should explain what your *position* on the topic is.
- It should explain what you intend to prove or argue in the paper.

Analytical (cont)

- ORIGINAL: This essay is on why medicine is a rewarding career path.
- REVISED: Medicine is a rewarding career path because doctors make excellent money while saving lives.

Lionesque: Make a bold claim; be a lion, not a lamb.

- ORIGINAL: Being a musician would be rewarding.
- REVISED: Musicians have the most rewarding careers because they use creativity and passion to produce amazing works of art.

Thesis Formulas

- X (is true) because A, B, and C.
- Although X (is true), Y (is also true) (because...).

X (is true) because A, B & C.

- X = Coaching is a rewarding profession.
- Why?
 - A. Need to study strategies
 - B. Take risks
 - C. Teach new skills

Although X, also Y.

- X = Being a custodian can get messy.
- Y = You make buildings cleaner and more sanitary.
- Although being a custodian can get messy, it is a rewarding job because you make buildings cleaner and more sanitary.

Bad Theses!

- How would you fix the following thesis statements?
- REMEMBER: A thesis statement should be...
- Unified, restricted, clear, analytical, and lionesque.

Bad Theses! (cont)

- Firefighting is a rewarding job.
- Airline pilots get paid a lot of money.

Revise Your Thesis

- After you have finished writing your paper, reread your thesis.
- Does it reflect what you actually wrote about?
- If not, change it so that it does.

[Do the Urkel dance!!!!](#)