SAMPLE THESIS STATEMENTS

Write a Clear Thesis in One Sentence

Your introduction decides the first impression, and your thesis statement is its most important line. Use this simple formula every time:

P + A + R

Position + Answer + Reason

P	A	R
Position	**Answer**	**Reason**
Your opinion, stated clearly.	Directly answer the question asked.	Your main reason(s) in one short phrase.
"I completely agree"	*"children should start learning a second language in primary school"*	*"it improves brain development and creates better career opportunities"*

Worked example

QUESTION · Agree / Disagree

Children should start learning a second language in primary school. Do you agree or disagree?

Thesis statement:

"I completely agree that children should start learning a second language in primary school, as it improves their brain development and creates better career opportunities in the future."

Position Answer Reason

Same Question, 6 Different Thesis Statements

Every version below follows P + A + R. Pick the one that matches your real opinion, then swap in your own reason.

QUESTION

Children should start learning a second language in primary school. Do you agree or disagree?

Position	Answer	Reason
1	**STRONG AGREE**	"I strongly believe that learning a second language should begin in primary school, because young learners absorb languages quickly and gain lifelong cognitive and career benefits."
2	**AGREE, DIFFERENT REASON**	"I fully support the idea that children should be introduced to a second language in primary school, as early exposure builds confidence and makes communication across cultures easier."
3	**STRONG DISAGREE**	"I disagree that a second language should be taught in primary school, since children first need to master their mother tongue and basic subjects."
4	**DISAGREE, DIFFERENT REASON**	"I do not think that primary school is the right time to begin a second language, as it may add unnecessary pressure on young students."
5	**PARTLY AGREE**	"I partly agree that children can start a second language in primary school, provided the lessons are playful and short, so that core subjects are not affected."
6	**AGREE WITH A CONDITION**	"I agree that a second language should begin in primary school, but only if schools have trained teachers to deliver it effectively."

Thesis Statements for Other Question Types

The formula stays the same. Only the Answer part changes with the question type.

QUESTION · Discuss both views and give your opinion

Some people think university education should be free for everyone. Others believe students should pay. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

"Although some argue that university education should be free for everyone, I believe students should contribute to the cost, as it encourages them to take their studies seriously."

Tip: give a quick nod to the other side, then state your own position clearly.

QUESTION · Advantages and disadvantages

More people are choosing to work from home. Do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?

"In my opinion, the advantages of working from home outweigh the disadvantages, as it saves commuting time and improves work-life balance."

Tip: say which side is stronger (outweigh / do not outweigh) and add your main reason.

QUESTION · Problem and solution

Many cities face serious traffic congestion. What are the causes, and what can be done to solve this problem?

"Traffic congestion is mainly caused by the rising number of private vehicles and poor public transport, and it can be reduced by investing in affordable, reliable public transport."

Tip: for two-part questions, cover both parts in one sentence.

QUESTION · Two-part question

Many young people today prefer online shopping. Why is this happening, and is it a positive or negative development?

"Young people prefer online shopping mainly because it is convenient and offers more choice, and I believe this is a positive development overall."

Tip: answer part 1 and part 2 directly. Do not leave one part out.

Common Thesis Mistakes

- **No clear position**
  "There are many opinions about this topic." This says nothing. Always state your view.
- **Too long**
  Keep your thesis to one sentence. Save the details for your body paragraphs.
- **Vague reason**
  "...because it is good." Name the actual reason, such as "improves brain development".
- **Reason doesn't match the essay**
  Your body paragraphs must develop the reasons you mention in the thesis.
- **Copying the question**
  Do not copy the question word for word. Reword it in your own language.

Your Turn: Practice

Write your own thesis using P + A + R. Underline your Position, Answer and Reason.

QUESTION

Students should learn practical skills like cooking and money management at school. Do you agree or disagree?

QUESTION

Governments should spend more money on public transport than on building new roads. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

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