**The Thesis Statement**

This is the topic sentence of the introductory paragraph (or in other words, “the big idea”). It is usually the **last sentence** of the introductory paragraph.

This is where:

* the author’s opinions are revealed
* the subject of the essay is announced
* the writer explains what he/she plans to write

It is usually linked to the topic sentences of the body paragraphs of the essay.

Examples:

1. All men are snobs about something, whether it be their athletic prowess, their cars or their facial hair.
2. Teachers can assign too much homework; they often do not realize that their students have other assignments, part-time jobs and other family commitments.

To check if you have written a correct thesis, ask yourself…

1. Is the thesis a complete sentence?
2. Does the thesis avoid any “I” references (e.g. I believe…)? Does it avoid general statements like “In this essay”?
3. Is the thesis specific about the topic and explain what will be written in the body of the essay?

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Which thesis below would be the best choice for an expository essay?

1. In this essay, I will write about how racism was a problem in the novel “In the Heat of the Night”.
2. The novel “In the Heat of the Night” teaches us about how racism is a problem.
3. Racism leads to ignorance, mistrust, and cruelty as shown in the novel “In the Heat of the Night”.

Write a thesis statement for the following essay:

**Lysander says, “The course of true love never did run smooth.” In an essay, explain how love is never easy and there are many obstacles for lovers.**

**The three body paragraphs will focus on the subtopics of**

1. **Parents**
2. **Friends**
3. **Disagreements**

Thesis statement:

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