Different Types of Thesis Statements

GENERAL TIPS
● A thesis statement should be specific, but not over-simplify your topic or position.
● Although thesis statements should be as short as possible, two sentence thesis statements are okay.
● It’s normal to revise your thesis statement throughout the writing process.

GENERAL CONSTRUCTION

\[ \text{OPINION} + \text{EVIDENCE} + \text{ORGANIZATION} = \text{THESIS STATEMENT} \]

TYPES
1. Argumentative
   ● In an argumentative essay, you make a claim about a topic and support your claim with reasons and evidence.
     ○ Note: This is the most common type of paper you will write as an undergraduate
   ● Common kinds of claims: opinions, policy proposals, evaluations, a cause-and-effect statement, or an interpretation.
   ● These claims are always statements people could disagree with because your aim is to convince your readers of your position with your reasons and evidence.

Thesis Structure:
1. Your claim/ assertion
2. The reasons/evidence to support this claim (or categories of analysis)
3. The order in which you’ll present your reasons and evidence

Examples:
➢ Tutors should not write essays for their students because the students will not benefit or grow as writers from this form of assistance since the students do not learn how to identify and fix their mistakes by themselves.
➢ The public would benefit from additional legislation limiting gun ownership because such legislation will reduce the number of casualties from suicides, domestic abuse, and mass shootings.

2. Analytical
   ● Analytical papers break down ideas or issues into component parts and present this breakdown/evaluation to your audience.
   ● Analytical essays may also evaluate an issue or idea, where the idea comes from, and its pros and cons.

Thesis Structure:
1. What you’re analyzing (topic)
2. The specific categories of your analysis
3. The order in which you will be presenting your analysis
Examples:

- An analysis of Hamlet's supernatural occurrences reveals that the setting of Denmark is characterized by its possession and demise under the otherworldly as seen through the imagery and interactions of Hamlet with the ghost of King Hamlet and Yorick's skull.

- The increased obesity rate of poor Americans directly correlates to economic factors, including a low minimum wage, the overpricing of healthy produce, the increased availability of inexpensive fast food, and a lack of time and money to buy and prepare healthier options.

3. Explanatory/Expository

- Explanatory papers explain an idea/topic/concept to an audience.
- Generally, explanatory papers do not want you to make any kind of argumentative claim about your topic. Rather, you should merely explain it.
  - Avoid using strong language or making judgments about the topic.

Thesis Structure:
1. What is going to be explained (topic)
2. The categories used to organize your explanation (how you divide up the topic)
3. The order in which you are presenting your categories

Examples:

- The process of writing an essay includes brainstorming, outlining, and writing drafts.
- The experiment consisted of collecting *apis mellifera* beehives infected with *varroa destructor* mites, treating half of the hives with formic acid, and monitoring the differences between the treated and untreated hives.
- The Columbian Exchange changed the New World and the Old World by exchanging diseases, food products, and technology.
  - Note: this is explanatory rather than argumentative because it is not making a value judgement on whether the exchange was good or bad. The essay that follows would merely explain the exchange.

REFERENCES & ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- *Techniques of College Writing: The Thesis Statement and Beyond*. Kathleen Moore and Susie Cassel. (Available at Rivera Library)
- “Tips and Examples for Writing Thesis Statements”
  [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/the_writing_process/thesis_statement_tips.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/the_writing_process/thesis_statement_tips.html)
- “Crafting a Thesis for an Expository Essay”