

Step 4 - Writing a Thesis Statement

My Research Topic: _____

Write the thesis statement for your paper. Your thesis will state your stance on the issue and illustrate how you intend to support your position.

1. List 3 arguments that support your viewpoint on the topic. You may refer to the facts and opinions provided in STEP 3.

| My Viewpoint: | Supporting Arguments: |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| | 1. |
| | 2. |
| | 3. |

ASK!
Has your viewpoint changed?

TIP!
Access the Statistics link in Research Tools on your Leading Issues topic page.

2. Compose your thesis statement. Follow this formula to help compose your thesis:

Clearly Stated Opinion + Specific Supporting Arguments = Thesis

TIP!
Avoid writing in the first person.

ASK!
*Have I clearly expressed my position?
Is my thesis specific and focused?
Will my thesis statement trigger thoughtful debate?*