

How To Write a Thesis Statement



What is a Thesis Statement?

A one or few sentence summary that explains what the project is trying to prove or analyze.

How do I write a Thesis Statement?

Start with a Research Question. What do you want to find out about? Some examples are below. Notice how each question would take some research to answer.

How did the Great Chicago Fire change the city of Chicago?

What lasting Effect did the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 have on the city of Chicago?

What happened to the Juvenile Court system to bring it to the crisis point?

Research enough to be able to take a stand. Add your opinion about the topic. What is the issue or concern? Make sure it's arguable.

In response to The Great Chicago Fire, city officials and builders completely changed the way buildings in the city of Chicago were constructed, transforming a city of wood into a city of brick, glass, and metal that directly contributed to its status today as a city of iconic architecture.

The World's Fair was an elaborate show of great technology and inventions from around the world. Two aspects that had a great impact on Chicago was architecture and electricity. The Fair led to the creation of new buildings in innovative architecture styles. The fair also led to advancement in electricity as electrical companies competed to supply the fair with power.

The Juvenile Court system was established to remove children from the adult criminal justice system and help youth reform, but over the years it became a source of punishment and imprisonment.

Evaluate the thesis statements on the following page. Ask these questions for each thesis:

1. Is it clear what the project will be about?
2. Is it arguable? Is there something that has to be proven?
3. Will research be necessary to prove the thesis?
4. Is there only one main idea?
5. Is it about something in the past that is important?

<i>Thesis</i>	<i>Strong</i>	<i>Weak</i>	<i>Reasons</i>
<i>Richard J. Daley died in 1976.</i>			
<i>Artists of Chicago: 1890-1990</i>			
<i>The Juvenile Court system was established to remove children from the adult criminal justice system and help youth reform, but over the years it became a source of punishment and imprisonment.</i>			
<i>Pesticides kill thousands of farmworkers and must be stopped.</i>			
<i>German immigrants in Chicago had enormous difficulties during World War One as they were forced to choose between being "German and an enemy" or forsaking Germany to be "American".</i>			
<i>Before Title IX, there were few female basketball players.</i>			
<i>How did The Jungle make an impact on the foods we eat?</i>			
<i>The reversal of the Chicago River, which improved sanitary and health conditions of Chicagoans, demonstrated that science, technology, cannot solve problems unless there is economic motives and political will.</i>			

Rewrite two of the weak statements to make them stronger.