

Q: What is the difference between a *working* thesis and a *final* thesis?

A: Let's first begin by identifying what exactly a *thesis* is.

- According to the *Oxford American Dictionary*, the term **thesis** means “a statement or an opinion that is discussed in a logical way and presented with evidence in order to prove that it is true”(757).
- The *American Heritage College Dictionary* defines **thesis** as “A proposition maintained by argument” also as “A dissertation advancing an original point of view based on research, esp. as required for an academic degree”(1408).
 - In fewer words, a thesis is most basically a writer's main claim. It summarizes the writer's position on a situation and answers the question(s) the writer addresses (Greene 51).

Now that you have a better understanding of what a thesis is, let's take a look at the difference between a working and final thesis.

Working:

- First attempt at an assertion of your position.
- Valuable in the early stages of the writing process because it helps you read selectively in the same way that your issue-based question guides your inquiry.
- You do NOT accept your working thesis as your final thesis statement.

Example:

“The harmful implications of ongoing exposure to these unattainable ideals, such as low self-esteem, eating disorders, unhealthy body image, and acceptance of violence, make urgent the need for change”(Greene, 100)

Final:

- This is the refined statement that speaks to the main stance or argument for the paper in its entirety.

- This thesis statement will be able to be created once you are satisfied that you have examined the issue from multiple perspectives.
- It should reflect the many reworkings of the paper topic as a whole.

Example:

“Although evidence may be provided to argue that gender is an innate characteristic, I will show that it is actually the result of one’s actions, which are then labeled masculine or feminine according to society’s definitions of ideal gender. Furthermore, I will discuss the communication of such definitions through the media, specifically in music videos, on TV, and in magazines, and the harmful implications of being exposed to these ideals”(Greene, 101).

To craft a memorable thesis that sparks interest and curiosity in readers, the sentences that lead up to the thesis should hook the reader by using one of the following techniques:

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|---|---------------------------------|
| -a startling statistic or an unusual fact | -a quotation or bit of dialogue |
| -a vivid example | -a question |
| -a description or an image | -an analogy |
| -a paradoxical statement | -an anecdote |

A Writer’s Reference p.15

*An effective thesis will *establish a context* for the topic of discussion and will *address the importance* of the analysis of the idea(s) to be discussed in the paper.

Take a moment to consider the aspects of crafting an argument...

Elements of Argument:
Claim, Support, Assumption

Claim- The proposition or conclusion that you are trying to prove.

Support- Prove the claim by using support in the form of statistics, facts, or expert opinion.

Assumption- Linking your supporting evidence to your claim is your assumption about the subject.