



# **PUT IT IN WRITING: HOW TO CREATE THESIS STATEMENTS AND TOPIC SENTENCES**

---

# Important notice:

At the end of this presentation there is a link to a google form quiz. You must score an 80% or higher to pass the quiz.

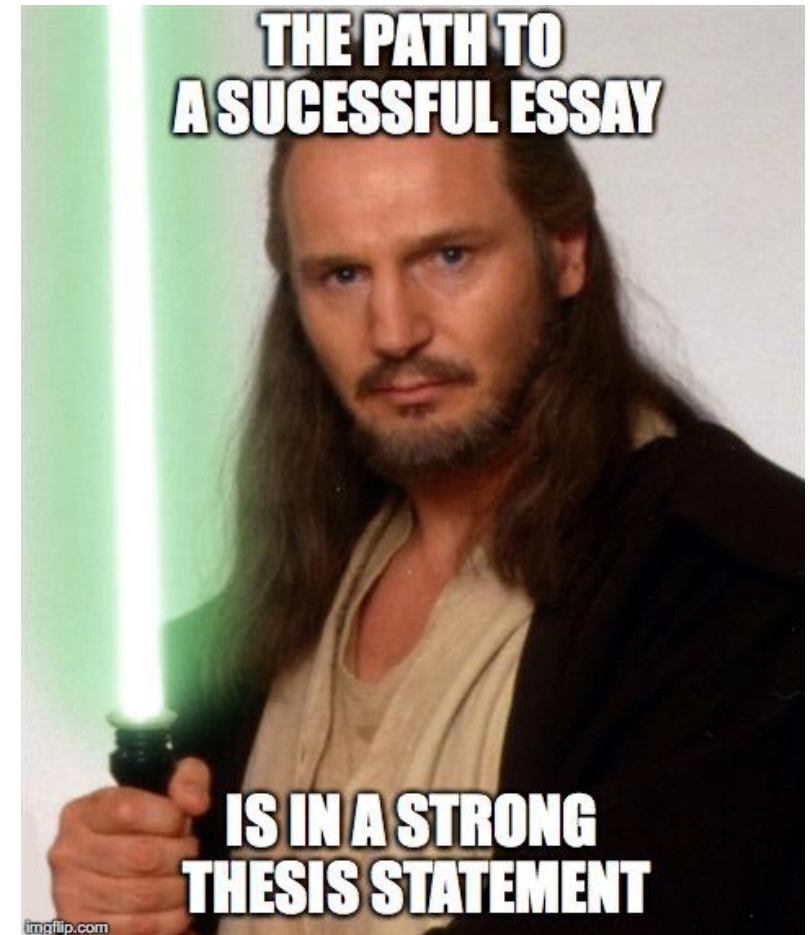
Please take your time viewing and studying this material before you proceed with the quiz.

# Objectives

- Identify the difference between a Thesis Statement and a Topic Sentence.
- Learn the key elements of these sentences.
- Understand their functions in an academic essay.
- Create strong Thesis and Topic Sentences.

# What is a thesis statement?

- A Thesis Statement tells the reader the **argument of your essay** and **how you will prove it** in your writing.
- What you should **expect** the essay to be about.
- An **interpretation** of a question or subject.
- The sentence that usually appears **at the end of your introductory paragraph**.



# An effective thesis statement should:

- Take a stance.
- Be arguable.
- Be easily identifiable.
- Be clear and specific.
- Relevant to the topic or prompt.

# Supporting your thesis statement:

- Examples from the text
  - Summaries of scenes
  - Direct quotes or paraphrasing
- Historical context
- Reliable secondary sources

# Supporting your thesis statement:



- **Direct Thesis Statement** gives a specific outline of the essay. It tells the reader what the essay is going to be about and provides an outline with the points to be discussed in the essay.

In her autobiography *When I Was Puerto Rican*, Esmeralda Santiago describes the contrasting perceptions of the *jíbara* she encountered in her early life from the accolades received from media outlets and the negative connotation associated with this term by many Puerto Rican women.

- **Indirect Thesis Statement** tells the reader what is going to be discussed in the essay without providing an outline of the points of discussion.

In the autobiography *When I Was Puerto Rican*, Esmeralda Santiago describes the contrasting perceptions of the *jíbara* she encountered in her early life.

# Thesis Statement Patterns

---

You may use the following patterns to help you write your thesis statement



# Theme



(ELEMENT) in (TITLE) (depicts, shows)  
(THEME).

The character of Caliban in *The Tempest*  
depicts the negative portrayal of the Other in  
Western literature.

# Character Analysis



In (AUTHOR's) (TITLE), (CHARACTER)  
(becomes, changes, develops) (ANALYSIS).

In Boots Riley's *Sorry to Bother You* (2018),  
Cassius "Cash" Green changes from being an  
egocentric individual to a leader in the fight  
against capitalist politics.

# Symbolism



In **(TITLE)**, **(AUTHOR)** uses **(ELEMENT)** to  
**(depict, show, represent)** **(OBJECT OF  
SYMBOLISM)**.

In *the Harry Potter Series*, J.K. Rowling uses  
the terms **mudblood, half-blood and pure  
blood** to **represent** racial politics.

# Symbolism



(TITLE) by (AUTHOR) (symbolizes, represents)  
(OBJECT OF SYMBOLISM).

*Breaking Bad (2008)* by Vince Gilligan represents the  
deficient health care system of the United States.

# Context

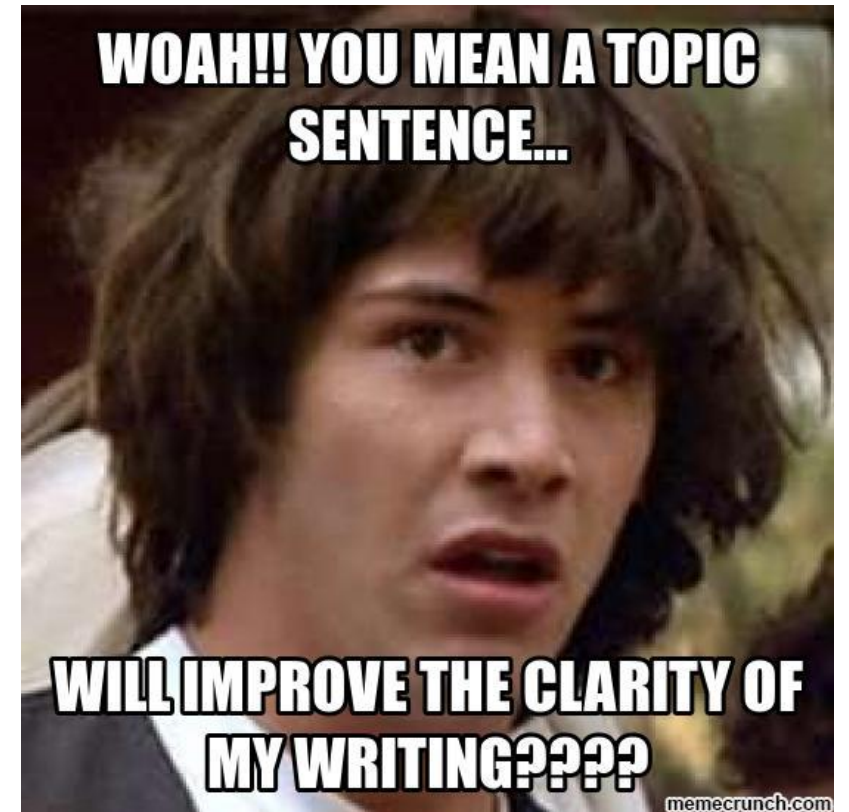


(AUTHOR's) (TITLE) (depicts, shows, represents) (HISTORICAL/SOCIAL CONTEXT) through (ELEMENT).

Lisa Allen-Agostini's *Home Home* represents the stigma of mental health in the Caribbean through a Trinidadian child's struggles with depression.

# What is a topic sentence?

- A topic sentence is **the main/controlling idea of a paragraph.**
- It **unifies the content** of a paragraph.
- Topic sentences help the audience and the writer **focus on the specific topic** of the paragraph.
- It **supports the Thesis Statement** of an essay.
- All the **supporting sentences** in a paragraph **must reinforce** the Topic Sentence.



# An effective topic sentence should:

- Provide new information.
- Be specific.
- Be strong (avoid starting the sentence with phrases such as there are/is).
- Avoid clichés, sayings and direct quotes.
- Support your thesis statement.

# Example of Topic Sentences

**Thesis:** In the autobiography *When I Was Puerto Rican*, Esmeralda Santiago describes the contrasting perceptions of the jíbara she encountered in her early life.

1. Esmeralda's admiration of the *jíbara* as a child was sustained by the positive representation of the concept in media outlets.
2. Esmeralda encountered negative connotations of the *jíbara* by many Puerto Rican women, her mother and her teacher.



# Quoted literary texts, films and television shows:



1. *When I Was Puerto Rican* (1993) by Esmeralda Santiago
2. *The Tempest* (1610-1611) by William Shakespeare
3. *Sorry to Bother You* (2018) by Boots Riley
4. *Harry Potter Series* (1997-2016) by J.K. Rowling
5. *Breaking Bad* (2008) by Vince Gilligan
6. *Home Home* (2018) by Lisa Allen-Agostini
7. *1984* (1949) by George Orwell

# Works Cited



Barradas, Efraín. “Un puertorriqueño en Nueva York: Jesús Colón.” *Enciclopedia de Puerto Rico*. <https://enciclopedia.pr.org/encyclopedia/un-puertorriqueno-en-nueva-york-jesus-colon/>.

“Citizen: An American Lyric.” *Graywolf Press*, <https://www.graywolfpress.org/books/citizen>.

“How to Write a Thesis Statement.” *Writing Tutorial Services*, Indiana University, <https://wts.indiana.edu/writing-guides/how-to-write-a-thesis-statement.html>.

“Paragraphs & Topic Sentences.” *Writing Tutorial Services*, Indiana University, <https://wts.indiana.edu/writing-guides/paragraphs-and-topic-sentences.html>.

“Tips and Examples for Writing Thesis Statements.” *Purdue Online Writing Lab*. The Writing Lab and OWL at Purdue and Purdue U, [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).

“Thesis Statements.” *Aims Online Writing Lab*, Aims Community College, <https://www.aims.edu/student/online-writing-lab/process/thesis>.

# Works Cited



“Topic Sentences.” *Aims Online Writing Lab*, Aims Community College,  
<https://www.aims.edu/student/online-writing-lab/process/topic-sentences.php>.

“Topic Sentences.” *Purdue Online Writing Lab*, The Writing Lab and OWL at Purdue and Purdue U,  
[https://owl.purdue.edu/engagement/ged\\_preparation/part\\_1\\_lessons\\_1\\_4/index.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/engagement/ged_preparation/part_1_lessons_1_4/index.html).

“The Topic Sentence.” *Support English Acquisition*, Rochester Institute of Technology  
<https://www.ntid.rit.edu/sea/processes/paragraph/process/sentence>

Rodburg, Maxine. “Developing a Thesis.” *Harvard College Writing Center*, Harvard University, 1999, <https://writingcenter.fas.harvard.edu/pages/developing-thesis>.

Xudong, Deng. “Writing an Introduction for an Essay.” *Successful Learning*, Centre for Development of Teaching and Learning, National University of Singapore, 2003,  
<http://www.cdtl.nus.edu.sg/success/sl25.htm>.

Para finalizar, haga clic sobre el enlace para tomar la prueba y enviar el informe a su profesor(a):

<https://forms.gle/MjHrUN93M9DcFr9t8>

¡Gracias por utilizar los servicios del



Conozca más sobre nuestros servicios virtuales:

<http://generales.uprrp.edu/competencias-linguisticas/>