



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 Microsoft Form quiz. You must score an 80% or higher to pass the quiz.

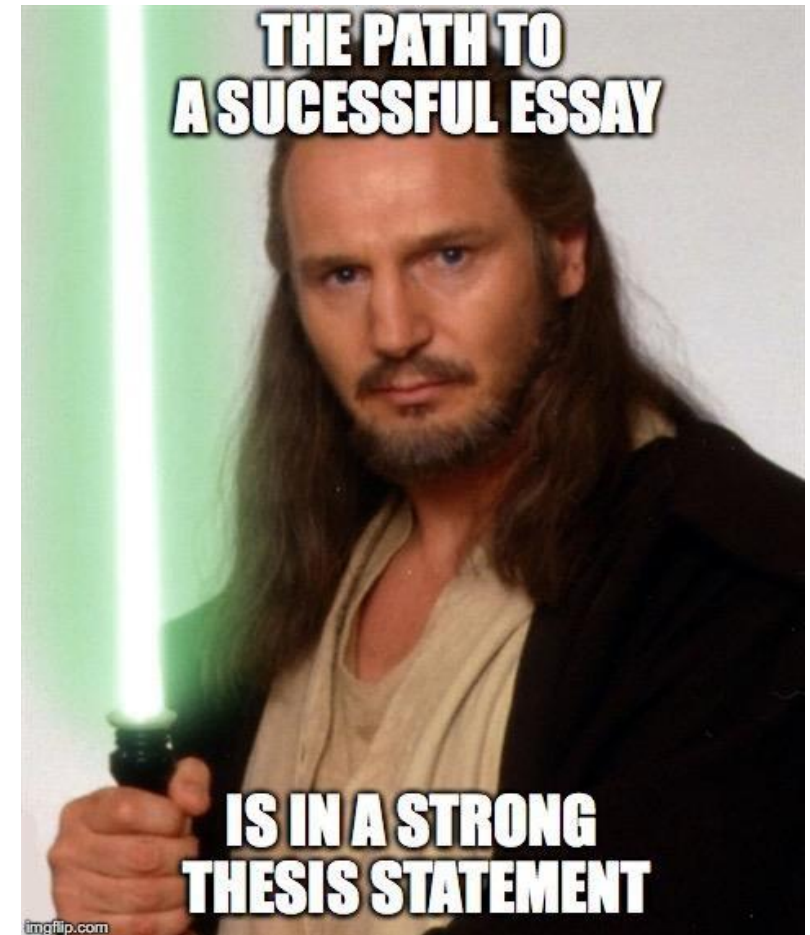
Please take your time viewing and studying this material before you proceed with the quiz.

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.
- It presents what they should **expect** the essay to be about.
- It can also be 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:** provides a specific outline of the essay. It tells the reader what the essay is 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

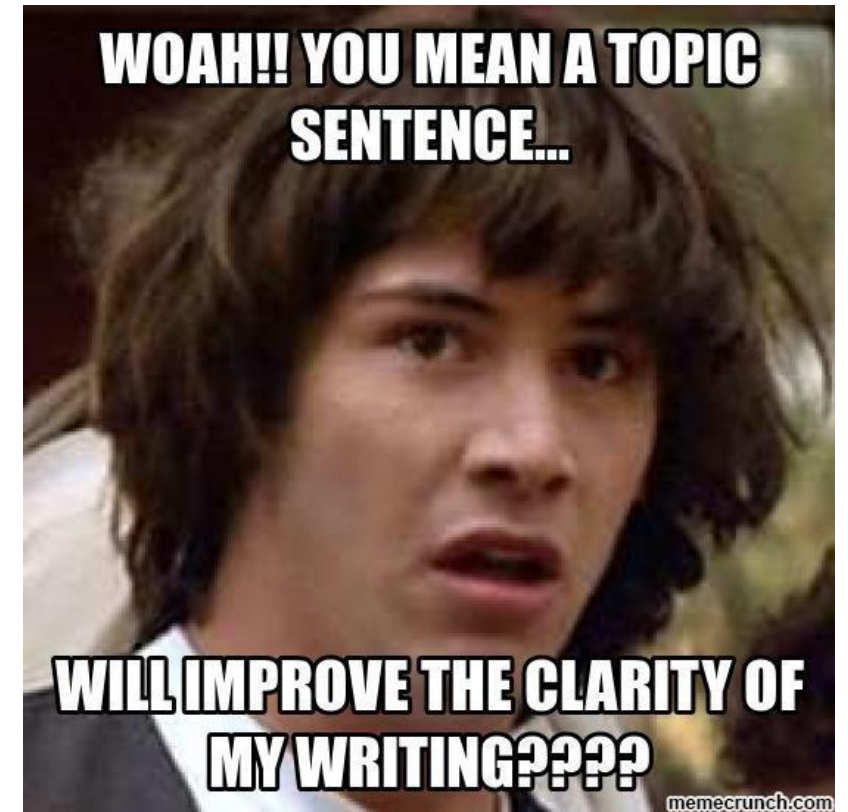


(AUTHOR's) (TITLE) (depicts, shows, represents) (HISTORICAL/SOCIAL CONTEXT) through (ELEMENT).

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



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Works Cited



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After completing the module, click on the following link to take the quiz and send the report to your professor:

<https://forms.office.com/r/Sw1e6iq6Xv>

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