



1. A thesis statement has 3 parts: **a general topic, a more specific focus, and several supporting points.**

a) **General topic:** What is the paper about?

The destruction of the rainforests

b) **Specific focus:** What are you going to **show** about the topic? (argument, cause/effect, or comparison?)

The destruction of the rainforests + **can be reduced**

c) **Supporting points:** What are your reasons or main points?

The destruction of the rainforests + can be reduced + **by providing alternative building materials to local workers, educating interested parties, and placing tighter restrictions on deforestation.**

Thesis statement: *The destruction of the rainforests can be reduced by providing alternative building materials to local workers, educating interested parties, and placing tighter restrictions on deforestation.*

2. A thesis statement helps determine the **structure** of the rest of the essay.

Thesis statement: *The destruction of the rainforests can be reduced by providing alternative building materials to local workers ❶, educating interested parties ❷, and placing tighter restrictions on deforestation ❸.*

Body Paragraph ❶: alternative building materials

Body Paragraph ❷: education

Body Paragraph ❸: restrictions

3. Some tips for thesis statements:

- Be as specific as possible. Avoid using ‘many reasons, bad problems, different solutions’ or words that don’t give the reader an idea of your points.
- Don’t tell the reader ‘this paper will discuss/talk about/ is about’ etc.
- Avoid ‘I’ unless the essay prompt specifically asks you for your opinion.



Practice

A. Each of the following thesis statements is missing **(1)** a topic, **(2)** a focus, or **(3)** supporting points. Some of the thesis statements do not **(4)** follow the tips shown in # 3 above. Decide what is missing and place the correct number(s) next to the sentence to indicate which part(s) needs to be added or changed.

1. The issue has the advantage of helping others, being inexpensive, and creating a community.
2. This paper is about plagiarism.
3. Technology in the classroom benefits students greatly.
4. Many important things are causing poverty in Africa.
5. I disagree with this idea because I believe we can do more to help children learn to read.

B. Make thesis statements from the following **topics**:

solving the water shortage

using technology in the classroom

regulating media violence

high textbook costs

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Find out more. Search the web or a grammar book for **thesis statements**.