

# THESIS STATEMENTS

Delgado Community College

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A thesis statement is a one or two sentence statement that states the main idea of an essay. It is a complete sentence, and it usually falls at the end of the introduction paragraph in an essay.

Thesis statements can be direct or implied. **Direct** thesis statements are the most commonly used in essay writing. **Implied** thesis statements are used for narrative writing or when the writer wants the reader to come to his or her own conclusion.

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Type	Example	Explanation
Points/ mapping thesis	Social media sites are useful for students because of X, Y, and Z.  X, Y, and Z are the specific points/reasons. Each of those points will appear in its own body paragraph.	States the specific points that the essay will cover. Creates a map of the essay.
No points/ general	Social media sites are useful for students in many ways.  "many ways" will be discussed in detail (one way per body paragraph) throughout the essay.	States the main idea/position but does not offer the points/reasons. There is no map.

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A thesis statement is not a question.

A thesis statement is not an announcement.

A thesis statement is not a fact or an observation.

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Example outline with mapping thesis:

Topic: Are social media sites helpful for college students?

- I. Introduction  
Thesis statement: Social media sites are useful both academically and socially for college students.
  - II. Body paragraph #1  
Topic Sentence: Social media sites create a place to safely interact with new people.
  - III. Body paragraph #2  
Topic Sentence: Social media sites can be used to further in-class discussions, enhancing the learning process
  - IV. Conclusion: restate thesis: Since social media sites are useful, college students should embrace them.
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