

Refined Thesis Statement

Why don't we write a better thesis statement from the beginning? Because we may find and learn new information in our research that will shape the thesis for the paper. So we save time by waiting until after our research to craft a more sophisticated thesis.

Step 1 - Find your working thesis statement.

Wherever that very simple thesis statement you used to guide the research is, pull it out.

Step 2 - Answer two questions

Before writing a more sophisticated thesis statement, answer the following questions IN WRITING. The answers must be in writing. The answers will be used to help craft the final thesis statement.

- What is my purpose with this paper?
- WHY am I writing it?

The answers to those questions will provide wording to help structure a more sophisticated thesis statement. For example, your purpose of arguing for the use of paper ballots is because you think “the integrity of elections is important,” and the WHY question is paper ballots provide “more security in elections to make sure they are accurate.” You can use some of that wording to craft a sophisticated thesis statement.

Step 3 - Look at thesis statement models

Taking the answers to two questions, you will write 2-3 different thesis statements using *some* (not each) of the resources listed below...

- H4HS pages 114-119 is on writing a strong thesis with tension. Review the notes from that chapter. Page 116 has a thesis sentence template you can use. Page 120 covers formula thesis statements for beginners.
- [This web page](#) has a step by step process for generating a thesis statement by starting with a topic question.
- This [thesis web page](#) can be used for models to help construct your own thesis.
- [Mini-lesson on thesis statements](#)
- [Statement of fact vs. thesis statement](#) (Also talks about taking a topic — communication — and connecting it to personal interests.)S

Step 4 - Select the best thesis statement

Example: "Although most people think electronic voting is superior, paper ballots can ensure the integrity of elections by (point 1, point 2, and point 3,).

See how we utilized one of the answers to the above questions? That's how responding to the questions help craft a refined thesis statement.