

Thesis Statement

A thesis statement is a complete sentence that contains one MAIN IDEA. This idea controls the content of the entire essay. To create a thesis statement, use the **S+D+3R Method**.

Subject + Direction + **3Reasons = Thesis**

Subject = your topic

(The subject is the topic you've chosen to research.)

Direction = your thoughts / opinion about your topic

(What you want your reader to understand about your topic.)

3 Reasons = 3 reasons why you think this about your topic

(The 3 reasons will come from your notes and research.)

Reason #1 = First Body Paragraphs

Reason #2 = Second Body Paragraphs

Reason #3 = Third Body Paragraphs

Some Examples:

A strong thesis statement would read something like this:

Tahiti is a wonderful vacation destination because of its beautiful location, unique historical geography, and numerous exciting activities.

Bad Thesis (not parallel)

Tahiti is a wonderful vacation destination because of its beautiful location, it has a very unique geography and history, and there are numerous exciting activities to do there.

Subject: Tahiti

Direction: Tahiti is a wonderful vacation destination

3 Reasons:

1. It is in a beautiful location
2. It has a very unique geography and history
3. There are numerous exciting activities to do there

So you've already selected your topic (SUBJECT), addressed the reason you're writing this paper (DIRECTION), and done some research (3 REASONS). Now combine all of those things into ONE or TWO complete sentence. You've just created a THESIS STATEMENT!