

Argumentative Thesis Statement

- *What is a thesis statement?* A **thesis statement** is usually one or two sentences, traditionally in the introductory paragraph, which tell the reader the general topic of your paper, what point you will be arguing, and what information you will use to prove your idea.
- *Why do I need a good thesis statement?* A **good thesis statement will**
 - Serve as a roadmap for your readers
 - Show your readers how your ideas will be arranged
 - Summarize your paper in a nutshell
 - Argue an idea
 - Help you as a writer organize your thoughts and keep your paper on topic
 - Be restated in your conclusion

For example: *In The Republic, Plato has developed an artificial utopia which, if created in the real world, would never survive because it fails to recognize the power of desire for choice, individuality, and wealth in human nature.*

OR (for a two-sentence thesis)

In The Republic, Plato created an artificial utopia which would never survive in the real world. Plato's utopia fails to recognize the power that human desire for choice, individuality, and wealth will have on his creation.

- **Things to include in a thesis statement:**
 - Context: In literary analysis, title(s) and author(s) of the book(s) you are using; other disciplines will have different criteria, such as time period, topic, etc.
 - The motif you will be discussing (relationships, love, greed, etc.)
 - An argument about your theme
 - Summary of the evidence you will use to prove your theme

If we look at the example, we can find the

- Title & author: The Republic by Plato
- Motif: the idea of a utopia and the perception of perfection
- Argument: a utopia would never be possible in the real world
- Summary of the evidence: people have a desire for choice, individuality, and wealth

The reader now knows what the writer will be discussing and will be looking for the evidence in the same order as it is presented in the thesis. In the example, the reader will be looking for one section on choice, another on individuality, and another on wealth. Following your thesis will keep your paper focused on the topic and organized.