

Introductions - Thesis Statements

Time: 60 minutes

Level: **** [B1/B2/C1]

Lesson Plan

Aim: to develop the students' ability to write an academic introduction - specifically Thesis Statements. The lesson shows different writing structures for thesis statements using linking words (however, although, despite,)

1. Lead in

- Ask Students to discuss what should be included in an introduction.
- Explain that usually it should have four parts / sections
- Try to elicit the four sections

*Students may not understand 'thesis statement' and this can be explained by suggesting it is your opinion and the key sections / topics to be discussed.

Introduction #1: [give out handout introduction overview] - ask students to read the introduction model and see how the four sections are structured. Highlight how the thesis links to the question, provides the key sections of the essay and provides a stance.

Thesis Statements #2: students read through the different structures and 'notice' the key changes in structure.

Extra: Thesis generator by The University of Arizona. Students go to webpage and try the thesis generator. <https://awc.ashford.edu/thesis-generator>

Thesis statements Task #3: students look at the introductions and write the thesis to each one using one of the writing structures from Thesis Statements #2. Give out model / example answers to compare or read.

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Introduction - Thesis Statements #1

What is a thesis statement?

- A thesis is the **main idea** of your essay and includes your **stance** (opinion).
- A good thesis statement will **direct** the structure of your essay and will allow the reader to **understand** the ideas to be discussed within your paper.
- A thesis is usually stated in the **opening paragraphs** of a paper, most often in the **last sentences** of the introduction.
- Overall, a thesis should include the words from the essay **question** (if given one), the **key topics** in the main body of the essay and your **stance** (opinion).

Introductions usually follow this basic structure. It is really important to tell the reader your stance (thesis statement) and structure of the essay.

| Introduction Structure | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1 | General sentence – introduce the general topic / background and reason for the argument / controversy. |
| 2 | Specific – what is the main topic / information based on this topic / definition (if applicable). |
| 3 | Thesis – should include the key topics of your argument. It must include your stance / opinion (to what extent you agree). |
| 4 | Outline – what is the general structure of the essay and a possible suggestion. ↪ |

Inter-changeable or combined

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An example introduction

Question: *Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is an important consideration for business. Do you agree?*

Corporations and businesses need to focus on being competitive, profitable and sustainable in order to survive. Corporate Social Responsibility is a management concept whereby companies integrate social and environmental concerns in their business operations and interactions with their stakeholders (UNDIO, 2021). Although it may not always be possible for every business to focus on CSR due to financial limitations, it should be a top priority for SMEs and large corporations if they want to improve their reputation, attract investment and maximise profitability. This essay will discuss the key reasons for implementing CSR and conclude that CSR is a sustainable business plan.

General sentence – introduce the general topic and reason for argument / controversy.

Specific – what is the main topic & definition.

Thesis – should include the **key topics** of your argument. It **must** include your stance

Outline – what is the general structure of the essay and a suggestion.

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Thesis statements on CSR #2

| |
|---|
| Should include: |
| The question words |
| Your stance (yes or no / to what extent) |
| Key topics of your argument / counter argument |

Question: *Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is an important consideration for business. Do you agree?*

Thesis statement (Although). Although it may not always be possible for every business to focus on CSR due to financial limitations, it should be a top priority for SMEs and large corporations if they want to improve their reputation, attract investment and maximise profitability.

Thesis statement (However): It may [redacted] on CSR due to [redacted], it should be a top priority for SMEs and large corporations if they want to improve their reputation, [redacted] profitability.

Thesis statement (Despite): Despite [redacted] to focus on CSR due to [redacted] should be a top priority for SMEs and large corporations if they want to improve their reputation, [redacted] profitability.

Thesis + outline combined

[redacted] the three key elements [redacted], attracts investment and maximises profitability. It will argue that these factors are a top [redacted] want to remain [redacted] sustainable business plan. The essay will also highlight that it may not always be possible for every business [redacted] limitations.

University of Arizona Thesis generator

Try this online thesis generator: Go to the web address below and follow the steps to formulate an argumentative thesis statement.

Web link: <https://awc.ashford.edu/thesis-generator>

Thesis Statements Task #3:

Write the thesis statement (include the question and the main topic in the essay)

Practice 1: A university education is not worth the cost. To what extent do you agree?

University education [redacted] incredibly popular for young people with on average one in every three college students going on [redacted] fees [redacted] costs becoming higher, most students are graduating with over [redacted] worth of debt. _____

Practice 2: Mobile phones are a health risk. To what extent do you agree?

Mobile phone usage has increased 67% [redacted] in every five [redacted] (Chaffey, 2016). Obviously, mobile phones are making our lives much more convenient with an instant [redacted] Internet.

Practice 3: Climate Change is a result of human activities. To what extent do you agree?

Temperatures on earth have increased [redacted] century. Over [redacted] of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide ([redacted] methane (CH₄) have notably increased, [redacted].

Example answers:

A university education is not worth the cost. To what extent do you agree?

University education [redacted] incredibly popular for young people with on average one in every three college students going on [redacted] fees [redacted] costs becoming higher, most students are graduating with over [redacted] worth of debt. **Although**, it seems that such an investment is important to gain a good career, recent research suggests the opposite. There is significant evidence that shows ...

ALL ANSWERS INCLUDED IN THE PAID VERSION...