

The Thesis Statement

The thesis statement controls the essay. It is your argument in one direct, succinct statement. It should be the last one-three sentences of your introduction.

An easy way to remember what goes into a thesis statement:

The Four Ss:

- Subject
- Stance
- Support
- Significance

The **subject** is what you're writing about.

Example: Dallas Cowboys

The **stance**, or opinion, is what you're trying to say about the subject. The stance must always be *debatable*.

Example: The Dallas Cowboys are the best franchise in football.

Not a good example: The Dallas Cowboys are a football team.

(This is not debatable; it is a fact.)

The **support**, or proof, is the specific textual examples you're going to analyze in order to prove the stance.

*Keep in mind: The support must be factual (or textual), not opinion-based.

Example:

- a. Their five Super Bowl wins are the second most in the NFL.
- b. They have had the most Super Bowl MVPs in history.
- c. They are the second highest valued sports franchise in history.

The **significance** addresses the larger relevance of your entire argument—the 'so what' or 'who cares.'

Example: Everyone should become a Cowboys fan.

Now put all of this together into a few sentences:

The Dallas Cowboys are the best franchise in football, because they have the second most Super Bowl wins, the most Super Bowl MVPs and are by far the highest valued team in the entire sport. Therefore, everyone should become a Cowboys fan.

You can formulate a thesis for every debatable point of view. Try your hand at constructing one for a literary argument.

Subject:

Stance:

Support:

Significance:

Thesis statement: