

How to Write a Thesis Statement

ASSIGNMENT: Think of a topic that you would like to research related to drug addiction.

YOUR CHOICE: Problems of crack babies, babies born to mothers addicted to crack cocaine

QUESTION THAT YOU WANT TO ANSWER: *What should be done for crack kids/babies, and who should do it?*

You start out with a thesis statement like this:

- *Crack babies*

This is **NOT** a thesis statement. It just indicates a general subject. Furthermore, your reader doesn't know what you want to say about crack kids.

*** NARROW THE TOPIC ***

Based on your research you believe that programs should be installed to help these children.

CHANGE THESIS TO:

- *Programs for crack kids*

This statement not only announces your subject, but it focuses on one main idea: programs. It also raises a subject upon which people could disagree.

- You should note that this fragment is **NOT** a thesis statement because your reader doesn't know your conclusions on the topic.

*** TAKE A POSITION ***

CHANGE THESIS TO:

- *More attention should be paid to the environment crack kids grow up in.*

This statement states your position, but the terms "more attention" and "the environment" are vague (unclear).

*** USE SPECIFIC LANGUAGE ***

You decide what you mean about "the environment," so you write:

- *Experts estimate that half of crack babies will grow up in home environments lacking positive cognitive and emotional motivation.*

This statement is specific, but it isn't a thesis. It simply states a statistic instead of making an assertion.

FINAL THESIS:

- *Because half of all crack babies are likely to grow up in homes lacking positive cognitive and emotional motivation, the federal government should finance programs to supplement parental care for crack kids.*

ASK YOURSELF: *Does this statement answer the question that you originally asked?*