“
The purpose of a writing class is to develop a
meaningful thesis, direct or implied, that will generate
a compelling essay. Most importantly, a meaningful
thesis will have a strong emotional connection between
you and the material. In fact, if you don’t have a “fire in
your belly” to write the paper, your essay will be nothing
more than a limp document, a perfunctory exercise in
futility.Q EMby.Q EM /Td()x.Q EM /Td()succ8 (fulthinM /Td()(pasis.Q EM /Td() (be)

demonstrable, which means it can be supported by
examples and illustrations in a recognizable
organizational design”.(Adapted from: Jeff McMahon. https://herculodge.typepad.com
breakthrough_writer/thesis/)
Tips for Writing Your Thesis Statement (from the Purdue OWL)
1. Determine what kind of paper you are writing:
	
	•	An expository or informative essay explains
something to the audience.
	•	An argumentative essay makes a claim about a
topic and justifies this claim with specific evidence. The claim
could be an opinion, a policy proposal, an evaluation, a cause-and-effect statement, or an interpretation. The goal of the
argumentative paper is to convince the audience that the
claim is true based on the evidence provided.
 •	 	An analytical essay breaks down an issue or an
idea into its component parts, evaluates the issue or idea,
and presents this breakdown and evaluation to the audience.

2. Your thesis statement should be specific—it should cover
only what you will discuss in your paper and should be
supported with specific evidence.
3. The thesis statement usually appears at the end of the
first paragraph of a paper.
Thesis categories (with examples):
Policy/Behavior change: “Congress needs to pass
legislation that regulates access to social media”
Value/Importance: “Face-to-face social interaction is more
meaningful than ‘likes’ on Instagram.”
Challenge Assumptions: “Contrary to conventional wisdom,
social media does not encourage social interaction, it
actually inhibits it.”
Reveal Cause/Effect: "(Over)-use of social media causes
depression and anxiety in teenagers.”

(Some) Thesis do’s and don’ts

(Adapted from: “Thesis Do’s and Don’ts" June 2007. https://herculodge.typepad.com/breakthrough_writer/2007/06/thesis_dos_and_.html)

Do

’

s

1. Do write a thesis that has a strong emotional connection to you and your audience (visceral).

2.

Do write a thesis that is relevant to cur rent events and make that relevance apparent.

3.

Do write a thesis that answers a compelling question you and your readers want answered.

4.

Do write a thesis in a sing le sentence, followed by mapping components that suppor t your argument.

5.

Do write a thesis that is cr ystal clear in your mind— since you can only write a power ful, clear essay if the thoughts inside your head are clear and power ful.

Don

’ts

1.

Don

’t write an easy thesis that is so self-evident or obvious that to

suppor t it will bore your reader.

2.

Don

’t write a thesis that is so broad and general that the only way to

suppor t it is with a 500-page book.

3.

Don

’t write a thesis that you don

’t understand or believe in because

your lack of conviction will give your paper a limp, soggy quality that will depress both you and your reader.

4.

Don

’t write a thesis that

“sounds good” but in truth bores the hell out

of you so that when you sit down to write your essay you cr y and curse your decision to enroll in a composition class.