

Thesis	Comment
<i>Does acid rain kill fish?</i>	This is a good <i>question</i> that might lead to a thesis, but it is not a thesis.
<i>Acid rain is a concern.</i>	A statement of fact is a weak thesis. Take a stand that is arguable.
<i>Something must be done about acid rain.</i>	This is a weak and vague thesis. What must be done? Take a stand that is specific and arguable.
<i>Acid rain will have a long-term impact on Ontario's lakes and rivers.</i>	This is a good thesis with the topic, a clear position, and the area of investigation included in one sentence.

Does your thesis statement do more than restate the topic or question?

- a) **Less effective:** *simply declares an intention*
This essay will examine the effects of technology on society.
- b) **More effective:** *indicates the result of research*
There is no evidence that the use of computers in primary school substantially improves learning.



Is your thesis statement written clearly so that it states the central argument precisely?

- a) **Less effective:** *too vague*
NAFTA may hurt Canadian business.
- b) **More effective:** *precisely indicates the author's argument*
Because NAFTA will increase unemployment as Canadian businesses relocate in Mexico, the agreement should be abolished.



Does your thesis statement present a position that can be proven?

- a) **Less effective:** *too broad to be proven in a single paper*
Margaret Atwood's science-fiction novels paint a bleak picture of the future.
- b) **More effective:** *manageable because one aspect is addressed*
The Handmaid's Tale, in depicting a future where a central authority controls fertility, suggests that our society will have a similar fate.

