

A **thesis statement** is your **controlling idea**, your **position**, your **opinion**. It is the **summary of your purpose**.

A **thesis statement** is made up of a **limited topic**, a **comment** about the limited topic, and preferably a **plan of development**.

Example: Mountaineering is a **beneficial activity** since it **enhances physical strength, develops problem-solving, and improves self-confidence**.

Limiting your topic:

Ask yourself these questions:

1- What do I want to write about? **Sports**.

2- What kind of sports do I want to write about? Olympic sports, winter sports, extreme sports, etc.? **Extreme Sports**.

3- What Kind of extreme sports do I want to write about? Paragliding, canoeing, snowboarding, mountaineering, etc.? **Mountaineering**.

Deciding on what to say about the topic:

The comment usually depends on the type of essay you want to write.

For example:

1- Effects: Mountaineering is a beneficial activity.

2- Causes: Young adults decide to practice mountaineering for several reasons.

3- Similarities: Mountaineering and ice climbing are similar in several ways.

4- Contrast: Mountaineering and hiking are different in several ways.

Writing your plan of development:

The plan of development shows how you will organize your **supporting material in the essay**.

In the following example, the reader expects to read about how mountaineering **enhances physical strength in the first body paragraph** and how it **improves self confidence in the last body paragraph**.

Example: Mountaineering is a beneficial activity since it enhances physical strength, develops problem-solving, and improves self-confidence.

Organizing your supporting material:

There are several ways to organize your support:

1- Chronological order (time — ending with the most recent event)

2- Spatial order (division/parts)

3- Emphatic order (least important to most important)

4- Reverse emphatic order (most important to least important)

Features of a Thesis Statement:

1- It should never be a question.

Incorrect: What are the ways to stop cheating at schools?

Correct: There are several ways to stop cheating at schools.

2- It should never be an announcement.

Incorrect: In this paper, I will discuss the methods schools can implement to stop cheating.

Correct: There are several methods schools can implement to stop cheating.

3- It should not be too broad or too narrow. It should be specific enough to allow you to develop your topic.

Incorrect: Students cheat on exams. **(too broad)**

25 students cheated on the exam. **(too narrow)**

Correct: Students employ many devices to cheat.

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4- It should be a simple sentence to avoid having two points to be developed.

Incorrect: ¹Even though educational institutions have implemented several means to eradicate cheating on exams, ²students still manage to employ novel methods that escape supervisors.

Correct: Students always manage to employ novel methods that escape supervisors.

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Thesis Statement

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