

# HOW TO TEACH STUDENTS TO WRITE A THESIS STATEMENT



**What is a thesis statement?** A thesis statement is one to two sentences in the introduction of an essay that the writer uses to “set the stage” for the reader. The thesis statement provides the focus for the writing that follows and lets the reader know what the essay is going to be about.



## STEPS IN WRITING A THESIS STATEMENT

### Step 1

**State the topic**

**Example:**

*Football for middle school boys*

### Step 2

**State the main idea of the topic**

**Example:**

*Football is an important sport for middle school boys to play because it helps use their strategic thinking and physical strength.*

### Step 3

**State the first point in support of your main idea**

**Example:**

*Middle school boys have a lot of energy that they need to get out of their system.*

### Step 4

**State the second point in support of your main idea**

**Example:**

*Middle school boys can get energy out of their system while using their brains for strategic thinking about the plays against the opposing team.*

### Step 5

**State the third point in support of your main idea**

**Example:**

*Middle school boys can use football as a structured alternative to fighting or inappropriate physical contact throughout the school day.*

### Step 6

**State one possible opposing point that might be valid, though you disagree**

**Example:**

*Football is mindless and too dangerous for young boys to play.*

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## Write a Thesis Statement with Concessions and Reasons



Even though \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ .  
*(insert Step 6 response)* *(insert Step 2 response)*

Also, \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ .  
*(insert Step 3 response)* *(insert Step 4 response)*

and \_\_\_\_\_ .  
*(insert Step 5 response)*

## Write a Thesis Statement with Concessions and Reasons

Even though \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ .  
*(insert Step 6 response)* *(insert Step 2 response)*

Also, \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ .  
*(insert Step 3 response)* *(insert Step 4 response)*

and \_\_\_\_\_ .  
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*(insert Step 6 response)* *(insert Step 2 response)*

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*(insert Step 3 response)* *(insert Step 4 response)*

and \_\_\_\_\_ .  
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