

Thesis Statement Basics

- A Thesis Statement is *one or more sentences* that states two things:
 - The **main argument or point** of your paper
 - The **reasons** behind your argument or point

<i>A Thesis is:</i>	<i>A Thesis is NOT:</i>
→ The statement of the author's position on a topic or subject	→ A statement of fact or observation
→ Clear, concise, and becomes an <i>idea</i> that needs to be supported	→ A statement of personal conviction or opinion
→ Often a counterargument to an existing assumption or claim	→ A generalization or overly broad claim
→ Often answers <i>why</i> or <i>how</i> questions related to the topic	

Paper Topic Assigned "Are there potential benefits of using computers in a fourth-grade class?"



"The potential benefits of using computers in a fourth-grade class are..."

Thesis Statement

OR

"Using computers in a fourth-grade class promises to improve..."

Example #1:

Abuse can come in many forms: emotional, physical, verbal, neglect, and everything in between. Although these types of abuse and who it affects varies, the consequences can potentially be universally harmful for any victim. When someone is abused during childhood and adolescence, it can have immediate, and sometimes long-term physical and developmental effects. Examining the different consequences of abuse on people's development may emphasize the importance of not only treatment for victims, but of intervention when and where abuse may begin.

Example #2:

From the time period of 1861-1877, race relations between African-Americans and white Americans changed more drastically than they had ever before. The Civil War, beginning in 1861, was fought partly on the foundation of abolishing slavery. Southern states did not agree with the Union and felt that slavery, their economy, and their way of life was being threatened. Around the beginning of Lincoln's election, Southern states began to secede, driving the United States towards an inevitable Civil War which lasted from 1861 to 1865. The role of African-Americans changed throughout the war, like being allowed to enlist in the army for the Union in 1862 (Freeman, Schamel, and West). But after the Civil War ended, the U.S. and all African-Americans were left to deal with a period of reconstruction, where race relations between African-Americans and whites would undergo major changes.