

The Analytical Thesis Statement

In an analytical paper, you are breaking down an issue or an idea into its component parts, evaluating the issue or idea, and presenting this breakdown and evaluation to your audience. An analytical thesis statement will explain:

- What you are analyzing
- The parts of your analysis
- The order in which you will be presenting your analysis

Example: *An analysis of mid 80's pop musicians reveals two kinds of pop stars: those imitating Boy George and those imitating Bon Jovi.*

The paper that follows should:

- explain how you analyzed the musicians
- explain about these two groups

Example: *An analysis of the college admission process reveals one challenge facing counselors: accepting students with high test scores or students with strong extracurricular backgrounds.*

The paper that follows should:

- explain the analysis of the college admission process
- explain the challenge facing admissions counselors

Ask yourself these questions while you write your thesis:

- What did I analyze?
- What did I discover in my analysis?
- How can I categorize my discoveries?
- In what order should I present my discoveries?

Works Cited

"The Analytical Thesis Statement." *Virgil Undergraduate Writing Center*. The University of Texas, n.d. Web. 23 Jan. 2011.

"Tips and Examples for Writing Thesis Statements." *The Purdue OWL Family of Sites*. The Writing Lab and OWL at Purdue and Purdue U, 2010. Web. 23 Jan. 2011.