

Writing a Thesis Statement

8th Grade

Arguable, specific, and answering the question actually asked.

A REAL THESIS

- Makes a claim someone could dispute
- Specific to this text or question
- Previews the reasoning
- Answers the question asked
- "Macbeth's fall is self-authored, not fated."

NOT A THESIS

- States an obvious fact
- Announces the topic only
- Vague — 'interesting', 'important'
- Answers a question nobody asked
- "This essay is about Macbeth."

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

If nobody could argue against it, you have written a summary. A thesis takes a position.

Formula: Although [counter-view], [your claim] because [reason].