

# How To Write a Thesis Statement

## What is a Thesis Statement?

A one or few sentence summary that explains what the project is trying to prove or analyze.

## How do I write a Thesis Statement?

1. **Start with a Research Question. What do you want to find out about? Some examples are below. Notice how each question would take some research to answer.**

*Why was Thomas Jefferson opposed to slavery?*

*What happened to the Juvenile Court system to bring it to the crisis point?*

2. **Research enough to be able to take a stand. Add your opinion about the topic. What is the issue or concern? Make sure it's arguable.**

*Even though Thomas Jefferson had slaves, he showed that he valued every human being in his words and actions.*

*The Juvenile Court system was established to remove children from the adult criminal justice system and help youth reform, but over the years it became a source of punishment and imprisonment.*

**Evaluate the thesis statements on the following page. Ask these questions for each thesis:**

1. Is it clear what the project will be about?
2. Is it arguable? Is there something that has to be proven?
3. Will research be necessary to prove the thesis?
4. Is there only one main idea?
5. Is it about something in the past that is important?

# Heat Up Your History Fair Project

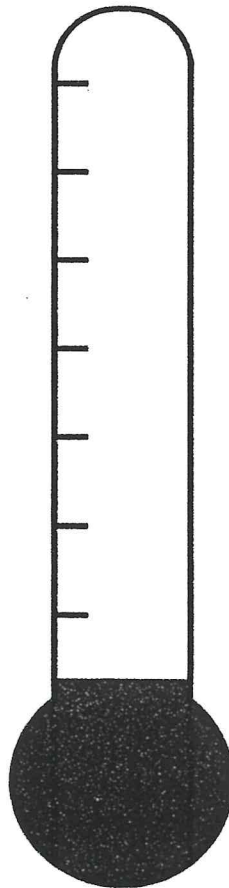
## How Hot Is Your Thesis?

- Does it *take a stand*? Is it *debatable*?
- Does it present a *narrow and specific* topic?
- Can the assertion be backed up by *evidence*?
- Does it express *one main idea*?
- Does it tell the viewer why the subject is *historically significant*? Does it answer the "So what?" question or show *change over time*?
- Is it presented as a *statement*, not a topic or question?
- Is it *historical*?
- (Optional) Does it address the NHD theme?

## Avoid These Thesis Pitfalls

Thesis is...

- just a statement of historical facts
- written as a question
- written as a topic
- too vague
- hard to prove with evidence
- current events, not history



with a blazing  
**THESIS**