

## Writing for College Success

For most types of writing, writers need to draft an introduction that includes a **thesis**. A thesis, usually a single sentence, is the controlling idea that a writer explores, supports, or illustrates using specific examples or arguments.

Before beginning the essay, defining the **purpose** of your writing is necessary. Is the purpose of the essay to analyze or summarize an article? Maybe a composition class assigns a descriptive essay on the new grading system adopted by college campuses. Here are some ways to specify writing purposes.

Analyze	Extend
Argue	Inform
Compare and contrast	Show
Describe	Synthesize
Discuss	Trace
Evaluate	Use

Whatever its purpose, your writing must address a specific **audience** that includes your actual or implied readers. Who are your readers? An audience could consist of your composition class, your English instructor, a future employer, a close friend, or a scholarship office.

Before writing the above criteria are considered before we can draft a **thesis** statement about the topic of our proposed essay.

Defining a **thesis**.

A thesis is a statement in a non-fiction or a fiction work that a writer intends to support and prove.

- An effective thesis is generally composed of two parts: a topic and the writer's attitude or opinion about or reaction to that topic.
- The tentative thesis will probably change, becoming more focused and polished as the essay is written and revised. Revising the original thesis is common.
- A good thesis tells the audience exactly what you want them to know, understand, and remember when your essay is done.
- An effective thesis statement singles out some aspect of a subject for attention and clearly defines your approach to it.