

Lesson Objective: Tutees will learn what a thesis statement is, why it is important, and where it is most commonly found in an essay. Tutees will also learn how to identify and formulate a strong thesis statement.

Handouts:

- a. Thesis Statements: This handout is intended to help tutees understand what thesis statements are and give them tools to create theses.
- b. Thesis Practice: This worksheet will give tutees the opportunity to practice creating thesis statements for different types of papers.
- c. Purdue Owl: Thesis Statements (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKXkemYldmw>): This video discusses the elements of thesis statements and how to create them. Because it is five minutes long, the writing consultant should find a specific section of time that focuses on an area that the tutee is struggling in to watch.

A **thesis** is a sentence (usually appearing at the end of the introductory paragraph) that *states the main argument of your paper*.

A good thesis will encompass the main points of each of your body paragraphs.

- **Weak Thesis:** *Public schools are great.*

The sentence is extremely vague and does not provide any reasons that support the claim that public schools are great.

- **Better Thesis:** *Public schools do as well academically as private schools.*

This sentence is better because it adds more depth to the claim and brings up an arguable point. However, it could still be stronger because it does not give any reasons why this is the case.

- **Stronger Thesis:** *Public schools do as well academically as private schools because there is not a huge difference in test scores, GPA, or college acceptance.*

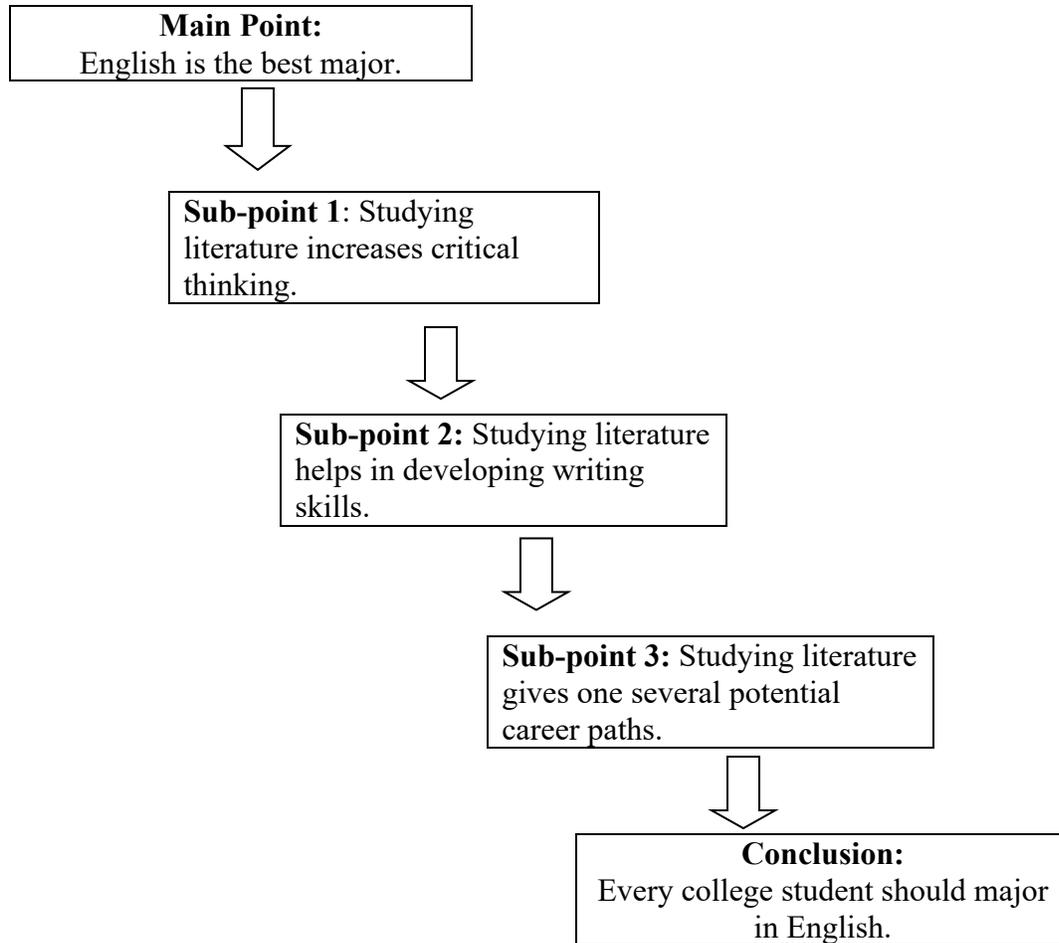
If the content of your paper seems disorganized, the problem may be with your thesis. A thesis statement can guide the organization of your paper if you include your main points in the thesis.

- **Weak Thesis:** *The best subject to major in is English.*

This thesis makes a claim based on opinion, but it does not back up that opinion in any way.

- **Stronger Thesis:** *English is the best subject to major in because the study of literature will increase critical thinking, help in developing writing skills, and give one a wide variety of career options.*

This thesis is better because it gives strong evidence to support the claim and sets up the basis of the essay.



Below, there are several writing prompts. For each, **write three main points** to include in an essay on the topic. Then, **write a thesis statement** that includes the claim and the three main points.

1. Argumentative: Should text and internet slang, like “LOL” and “gif,” be included in dictionaries?

Three main points:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Thesis statement:

2. Compare and contrast: Teenagers and toddlers.

Three main points:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Thesis statement:

3. Argumentative: Should there be a school dress code?

Three main points:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Thesis statement:

VIDEO REFERENCE:

Objective: *This video covers the form and function of thesis statements and details three key features of a thesis statement.*

Purdue Owl:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKXkemYldmw>