

What is a thesis statement?

According to OWL...

- Thesis statement: debatable claim
 - *Pollution is bad for the environment.*
 - *At least 25% of the budget should be spent on limiting pollution.*
 - *America's anti-pollution efforts should focus on privately owned cars.*

According to OWL...

- Thesis statement: narrow
 - *Drug use is detrimental to society.*
 - *Illegal drug use is detrimental to society because it encourages violence.*

According to OWL...

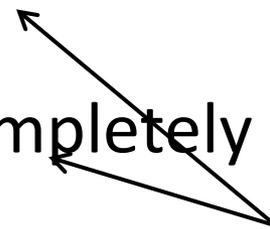
- Persuasive writing claims
 - Claims of fact: definitions; whether fact is settled
 - Claims of cause and effect
 - Claims about value: what something is worth
 - Claims about solutions: for or against policy

- All relatively “personal”
- May rely on logic and evidence...
- ...but probably not original research

According to Chad...

- A thesis statement
 - is a statement
 - makes an objective claim about the world
 - is not trivial; can be debated
 - is specific enough to treat completely
- Generally an “answer” to the research question

These two resemble
OWL's “debatable” and
“narrow” advice.



A thesis statement is

- a statement telling your reader what you discovered or what your research is about.
 - Factual
 - Objective
 - Non-trivial
 - Specific

A thesis statement is factual.

- Do you like cake?
- Let's eat some cake.
- I like cake.

A thesis statement is objective.

- I like cake.
- Eating cake makes people happy.
- *LaLa House* sells cake.

A thesis statement is non-trivial.

- *LaLa House* sells cake.
- There are four cake shops between Yagoto and Motoyama stations.
- Cake shops contribute to economic activity in Chikusa ward, Nagoya.

A thesis statement is specific.

- Cake shops contribute to economic activity in Chikusa ward, Nagoya.
- Eating too much cake can lead to obesity.
- Western-style wedding cakes are integrated into Japanese wedding ritual as a symbol of fertility.

*The incorporation of new – especially borrowed – elements into existing rituals presents a problem for symbolic analysis: if the additions are to be understood as meaningful rather than random, it must be shown that the incorporated element has been coherently integrated into the already existing system of symbolic meaning. In order to understand one example of a borrowed element, the **Western-style wedding cake in modern Japanese weddings**, this paper begins with an examination of the symbolic distinctions operative in a variety of contexts in Japanese culture. It concludes that **the cake can be seen as coherently integrated in terms of these distinctions into the wedding ritual, as a symbol of fertility.** (Edwards 1982)*

Using the thesis statement

- “Normally, if an academic writer is very clear about his or her research, he or she should be able to state the central research idea in just one sentence. Thus, if the writer cannot state the central research idea in just one sentence, he or she is not very clear about his or her research” (Lai 2011).