Thesis Statements

**A thesis statement:**

* tells the reader how you will interpret the significance of the subject matter under discussion.
* is a road map for the paper; in other words, it tells the reader what to expect from the rest of the paper.
* directly answers the question asked of you. A thesis is an interpretation of a question or subject, not the subject itself. The subject, or topic, of an essay might be World War II or *To Kill a Mockingbird*; a thesis must then offer a way to **understand** the war or the novel.
* makes a claim that others might dispute.
* is usually one or two sentences near the beginning of your paper (most often, at the end of the first paragraph) that presents your argument to the reader. The rest of the paper, the body of the essay, gathers and organizes evidence that will persuade the reader of the logic of your interpretation. <https://writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/thesis-statements/>

Synthesis Essay Thesis Statements

How are the sources the same? (in addition, just as, likewise, similarly)

How are they different? (however, whereas, conversely, although, meanwhile)

So what? What can we learn about humanity or literature from synthesizing the sources? *(can you put the topics into sharper focus? Can you find fresh insight? Is one better than the other? Can you bring new knowledge to the subject?)*

Examples:

Short Thesis

**-By examining the sources, it becomes evident that family influences the identity of individuals and helps to shape the person that they become. *(short but correct)***

*-These four sources share common themes such as the dangers of conformity, the perils of youthful innocence, and the despotic, tyrannical nature exhibited so often by those who are of a higher status. Most importantly however, they all demonstrate the significant need for critical, free thinking.*

**-Despite their differences in formatting and expression, the two pieces of literature managed to convey the same message. The writings tell of the difficulty of keeping a clear cultural identity under the prejudice and pressure of their society. Ultimately, they also show how individuals new to our country can overcome this challenge if they retain their precious memories and respect their culture regardless of adversity.**

Longer thesis.

In *Indian Horse* and “Indian Education”, both give insight into racial discrimination and its effect on First Nation Peoples. Similarly, both protagonists in the stories feel shameful of their heritage, due to racism in their community; however, in *Indian*, Saul feels angry towards his First Nation’s heritage and towards others because of his experiences with racism. Meanwhile, in “Education”, Junior feels empowered to celebrate and embrace his First Nations background, because of his experiences with racism. Furthermore, racism may effect First Nation peoples by making one feel ashamed of their heritage; however, one can become proud of their background and can challenge racism to overcome shame.

*The Help* and *The Book Thief* both show how relationships help us develop and the ways relationships can help people overcome losses. Similarly, each story has characters dealing with the death of their loved ones. In *Help*, Aibileen deals with the death of her son with the help of Minny who supports her in the grieving process, proving their friendship. Aibileen also finds an outlet for her love by loving the white children she takes care of. Meanwhile in *Book Thief*, Liesel is left to mourn alone after her brother’s death and her mother giving her up. Liesel finds new relationships that lead her to develop trust and love again with her new foster parents and the friends she meets. Therefore, both show how relationships can get us through tragedies and help us develop our own personal growth.