

UNIVERSITY WRITING CENTER
20+ years of student success
www.csulb.edu/uwc
(562) 985 – 5162
SSC - 245

What is a Thesis Statement?

Introduction

Writing in college often takes the form of persuasion—convincing others that you have an interesting, logical point of view on the subject you are studying. Persuasion is a skill you practice regularly in your daily life. You persuade your roommate to clean up, your parents to let you borrow the car, your friend to vote for your favorite candidate or policy. In college, and especially in a timed writing situation such as the GPE, essay prompts often ask you to make a persuasive case. You are asked to convince your reader of your point of view. This form of persuasion, often called academic argument, follows a predictable pattern in writing:

- directly answers the question asked of you. A thesis is an interpretation of the text that you are reading.

on.