

THE THESIS

→ A thesis-driven (argumentative) paper makes a claim about a topic and justifies this claim with specific evidence. The goal of the argumentative paper is to convince the audience that the claim is true based on the evidence provided (Purdue OWL).

→ Offer a thesis about your topic and then present evidence/facts and analysis (the analysis provides support and explanation that connects your evidence to your thesis). A thesis may not necessarily argue that something is right or wrong ("The death penalty is wrong."), but it must argue a position on a topic ("The death penalty has not been a deterrent to crime in the U.S.").

→ *When a topic is not assigned:* Even if your assignment doesn't ask a specific question, your thesis statement still needs to answer a question about the issue you'd like to explore. In this situation, your job is to figure out what question you'd like to write about.

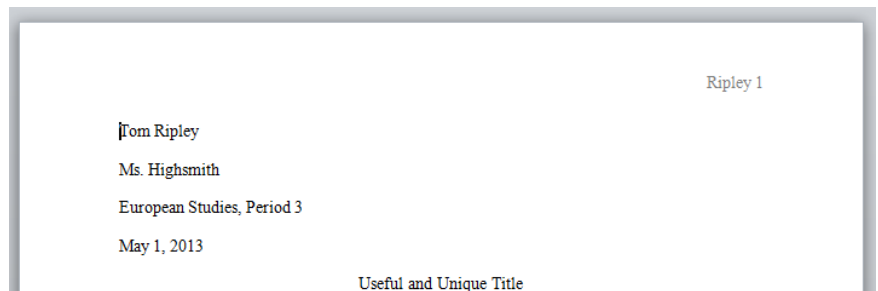
A good thesis statement will usually include the following four attributes: 1) take on a subject upon which reasonable people could disagree, 2) deal with a subject that can be adequately treated given the nature of the assignment (length, timing), 3) express one main idea, 4) assert your conclusions about a subject (Indiana WTS)

MLA FORMATTING

MLA style is used in the humanities for the formatting of research papers, in-text citations, and the Works Cited page.

General Format of Research Papers:

1 → One inch margins, 2 → 12 point font, Times New Roman, 3 → Double-spaced (with no extra spaces), 4 → Left-aligned (except title, the only thing centered), 5 → Heading (your name, teacher's name, class name and period, due date written out – see example below), 6 → Header (upper right corner, your last name and page number)



In-text Citations:

→ In a paper, it is the brief note that is included so the reader knows the fact came from another source and can look at your Works Cited page and find the exact location of the fact.

→ The citation contains whatever comes first in the entry on the Works Cited page (the author's last name, an article title with the quotations). The citation goes in parenthesis at the end of the sentence, before the period. If the citation is from a book, it must include the page number as well.

→ Example from a book with one author (Einstein 9). From a website, no author ("General Relativity").

Works Cited Page:

→ The last page of a research paper, it alphabetically lists the full citation information for all sources cited in your paper and no other sources.

→ The information that needs to be included is very specific; guidelines for what to include can be found on the SHS library web page, the Purdue OWL site, EasyBib.com, and others. Your page should look something like this.

