What is a Thesis Statement?

Your Thesis Statement is the main argument you will be proving throughout your paper. In a super-simplified explanation, you can consider it the primary "Purpose" for your assignment.
Do you want to convince? Do you want to entertain? Are you trying to cast judgment or motivate a person or group of people to do a specific action?
In academic papers, your purpose may be to get a good grade, but to get that good grade, you're going to have to support your main points with really good structure. A really good paper doesn't necessary need to have a very compelling thesis statement, the only thing it demands is that you unequivocally support that thesis statement, with strategically placed evidence that supports body paragraph's topic statements, which all work to prove your Thesis Statement.

Thesis Statements in the Real World Setting

Even though we mainly discuss Thesis Statements in academic writing, Thesis exists in all types of written texts. For job application cover letters, for instance, your Thesis Statement is "I am the best candidate for this job." You'll find a multitude of reasons and ways to prove this premise. But it is the people who demonstrate that Thesis most effectively who get the job interviews, and ultimately, the Job.

Using this model, we can apply this format to all other types of written text:

For rental application cover letters, for instance, the Thesis Statement is, "I am the best candidate for this rental property." You'll find a multitude of reasons and ways to prove this premise, where ultimately, the person who can prove the premise most effectively is the one who'll get the rental property.

Thesis Statements in Academic Writing

What is considered the most critical aspect of a paper can quickly become the most difficult sentence to put into a clear, concise message. A good paper will be structured and find its form by the Thesis and minor premises that the Thesis implies. You will reinforce the Thesis in each topic statement, and prove that Thesis, by examining the topic sentences in each body paragraph of your paper.

The difficulty of the Thesis is not only that it is the forefront of the paper, but that it simultaneously remains at the backdrop throughout the essay. The Thesis hovers in the reader's mind, like a half-formed, half proven theory that you attempt to prove, as you present new material into the developing paper. The Thesis, therefore, gains more and more traction with each proceeding body paragraph.

"Working Thesis" & Writers Block

A working thesis functions under the same principle as the thesis statement: it is the main idea of the assignment, and it has a specific claim, that you will support with the evidence you have gathered. The outline will help you organize the information, and the editing will help you proofread for style, grammar, and syntax.

The importance of the Thesis can sometimes create an overbearing amount of pressure, which limits writers' ability to move past it, aka, writers' block. For that reason, I find it to be a good idea to begin the introduction by first identifying the thesis statement, but to instead, allow the Thesis to come to you as you pinpoint the specific evidence you want to consider.

A Working Thesis is useful because we don't need to take them quite as seriously. A working thesis doesn't have to be perfect; it merely has to have a claim. Usually, in any opinion, you already have an idea about the reasons why you feel a specific way. Having a claim to start with allows you to pinpoint the evidence that best supports your opinion. If you are zero out of ideas, the best working Thesis will always be your initial reaction to the material at hand.

> Did you like the book? Did you hate the movie? Was the event positive or negative for society? Did the city council do a good job or did they do a poor job?

Your initial opinion, aka, working Thesis, doesnt necessarily need to be academic or professional; it merely needs to have a claim, that you usually already have reasonings to support or try to persuade.

> "I like the novel Pride & Prejudice because it is a good story."

As simple as it may sound, you have a start to your paper if you can find evidence in the story to analyze and consider which proves, in your opinion, why :

> "Pride & Prejudice is good Story."

What do you need to start?

They say every good plan begins with an idea. A "Working Thesis" for your project is that very "first idea" that you will be using to start your outline. Since you structure depends on a good outline, that outline is based on an excellent plan to execute your paper's point AKA your Thesis Statement . By starting with a "working" Thesis Statement, and outlining your Thesis/ Topic Sentences with good evidence, your paper can go from vague and changeable statements to more clear concrete ideas.