McCune

Thesis Statements

**What is a thesis?**

* A thesis statement is one sentence that tells me the point or message of your paper.

**Guidelines for a successful thesis:**

* Must include the author and title of the work you are writing about
* Comes at the end of the introduction
* Must be universal
* Must be arguable
* Must include a “So What?”
* Must include a **dependent clause marker (DCM)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **after** | **how**  | **unless** |
| **although** | **if**  | **until** |
| [**as**](http://englishplus.com/grammar/00000236.htm) | **inasmuch**  | **when** |
| **as if**  | **in order that** | **whenever** |
| **as long as**  | **lest**  | **where** |
| **as much as**  | **now that**  | **wherever** |
| **as soon as**  | **provided (that)** | **while** |
| **as though**  | **since** |  |
| [**because**](http://englishplus.com/grammar/00000189.htm) | **so that** |  |
| **before**  |  |  |
| **even if**  |  |  |
| **even though**    | **though** |  |

**Format:**

In \_\_\_\_Title of Work\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_author\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_shows\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_theme or message\_\_\_\_\_ \_DCM\_ \_\_\_additional explanation of the theme\_\_\_.

*Example: In “Everyday Use,” Alice Walker argues that gifts are a blessing* ***as long as*** *people use them to help others rather than make them feel inferior.*