



# The Writing Center

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO  
DENVER | ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

## Thesis Statement Placement

After drafting your thesis statement, it is important to strategically place (versions of) your thesis to meet reader expectations and provide structure for your essay. Below is an example of where a thesis is expected as well as where it could be placed throughout an essay. Non-essential text is purposefully written in grayscale Latin. Focus on the annotated text describing the placement of the thesis statement and the elements of a strong thesis. For more information on thesis formation and development see the Thesis Statements handout.

### Sample Essay

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The first instance of your thesis statement typically comes at the end of your introduction and should be the most concise and easy-to-understand version of the thesis. Because the body of your paper will develop and test this thesis, an in-depth, sophisticated, and lengthy version of a thesis statement here could overwhelm and possibly confuse your reader.

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Occasionally, it is helpful for readers if you return to your thesis to remind them of your main argument. Consider doing this as a wrap-up to supporting points with connections to the thesis statement that might not be obvious. Be careful, though: Returning to your thesis at the end of every supporting paragraph may lead to redundancy. Instead, think of it as an option when creating links at the end of body paragraphs.


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English Only laws do much harm: They deny immigrants access to resources necessary to be a functioning and contributing member of society; they feed the myth that speaking English leads to the assimilation of an immigrant group; and they transform English into a false “litmus test” of one’s patriotism and allegiance to America. Bilingual education, on the other hand, reinforces the idea that American identity stretches beyond English and prepares the next generation of global citizens to communicate that identity in multiple languages.

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After complicating and developing your thesis statement throughout the body of your essay, you and your audience have now arrived at a much more sophisticated and complex understanding of your argument; likewise, the final version of your thesis statement should be more sophisticated and complex. Rather than copy/paste the thesis statement from the introduction, give readers an evolved version in the conclusion that synthesizes key points from the essay. Compare this version with the one given in the introduction. More sentences are devoted to each element of the original thesis statement, further qualifying it.

For further information/related concepts, please see the following handouts:

- Thesis Statements
- Paragraph Development: M.E.A.L.