Help! I need a thesis!

Have you ever watched a great film trailer and thought, “I have to see that movie!”? A good trailer gives you the basic premise of the movie, shows you the highlights, and encourages you to want to see more.

A good thesis statement will accomplish the same thing. It gives readers an idea of the most important points of an essay, shows the highlights, and makes them want to read more.

It will also help keep you, the writer, from getting lost.

Most importantly, a good thesis statement makes a statement. After all, it’s called a thesis statement for a reason! As a STATEMENT, your thesis ANSWERS two important questions:

What is the topic?

What will be shown/proven about the topic?

**Thesis Statement Examples**

#1. Why Vaccinations Should Be Mandatory

Today, nearly 40% of American parents refuse to vaccinate their children due to a variety of unfounded fears. **Vaccinations against diseases such as polio, rubella, and mumps, should be mandatory, without exception, for all children of the U.S. who wish to attend school; these vaccinations are critical to the control and eradication of deadly infectious diseases.**

#2. Government Surveillance Is Harmful

Government surveillance programs do more harm than good because they invade civil liberties, lead innocent people to suffer unfair punishments, and ultimately fail to protect the citizens that they are designed to safeguard; for these reasons, programs such as PRISM operated by the NSA should be discontinued.

#3 Financial Compensation for Organ Donors

People who sign up for organ donation freely give their hearts and other organs, but this free system limits the number of available donors and makes it difficult for recipients to access lifesaving transplants. **Thus, organ donors should be financially compensated to produce more available organs and, at the same time, to decrease profitable, illegal organ harvesting activities in the black market.**

#4. Our School Is Too Dependent on Technology

Our school’s dependence on technology has caused students to lose the ability to think independently. **This technology dependence has caused a greater prevalence of mood disorders, memory loss, and loneliness; therefore, educators should combat these issues by requiring students to participate in regular technology detoxes**.

#5 School Officials’ Should Fight Cyberbullying

Bullying has extended far beyond school and into cyberspace. **Even though these acts of aggression take place outside of school boundaries, school officials should have the authority to discipline students who engage in cyberbullying without fear of reprisal; this will help improve the online behavior of students and decrease incidences of cyberbully-related suicide attempts.**

#6 The U.S. Media Should Update the Depiction of Traditional Families

The U.S. media depicts the traditional family as being comprised of a mother, father, and children; however, this notion of the traditional family is outdated and can be harmful to children who look to this as the gold standard**. The U.S. media should expand and redefine the definition of the traditional American family to include divorced and remarried parents, extended families living together, and families with same-gender parents.** This will increase the overall sense of happiness and well-being among children whose families don’t necessarily fit the mold.

#7 Student Loans Should Be Forgiven

Crippling student debt is stifling the growth of the U.S. economy because it inhibits graduates from being able to spend money on consumer goods and home purchases**. Lenders should be required to forgive student loans in cases where students are unable to repay their debts to benefit the growth of the economy by increasing tax revenues, unfreezing credit markets, and creating jobs.**

#10 China’s One-Child Policy Should Be Reversed

China’s one-child policy was intended to help control population growth. **Instead, it has led to unintended and negative consequences, such as a diminishing labor force, an aging population, the neglect of basic human rights, and an unbalanced gender population; therefore, China’s one-child policy should be reversed.**