

Thesis Builder Worksheet

A focused guide to writing arguable thesis statements and body paragraphs that actually support them with clarity and control.

What a thesis should do

- A thesis should make a specific, supportable claim rather than announcing a topic.
- It should give the essay direction and help the reader understand what the paper will argue, explain, or analyze.
- A strong thesis is focused enough to be developed with real evidence instead of vague generalities.

How body paragraphs should work

- Each paragraph should develop one main idea tied directly to the thesis.
- Start with a clear topic sentence, then add evidence, analysis, and a closing thought or transition when useful.
- Do not let a paragraph drift into multiple unrelated ideas. One paragraph, one main purpose.

Technique, form, and revision

- Just like strength training, writing improves through repetition and better form, not random effort.
- Weak thesis statements usually come from being too broad or too obvious.
- Weak paragraphs usually come from skipping analysis and moving from quote to quote without explanation.