

Thesis Statement: Fact or Claim?

Every essay must have a claim or thesis statement. For essay in this course, your thesis claim should always be the last sentence of your introduction paragraph.

A thesis statement is a **specific claim** about a topic. Sometimes, however, differentiating between an fact and a claim poses a challenge.

A Fact

A fact is something that is known to be true. When reading literature, this is everything from character names, ages and details; it's the events of the plot; essentially, anything that can be looked up/found in the story by reading it. There is NO analysis involved in a piece of factual information from a literary work.

Example: This year's sophomores will graduate in 2022.

A Claim

A claim goes beyond facts; it uses facts to offer an insight or argument about the topic (this depends on the prompt).

Example: Students who have not yet reached the age of eighteen when they graduate in 2022 will have a difficult time adjusting to college life and academics.