

HOW TO WRITE A MASTER'S THESIS

The resources linked in this handout can be accessed through the Success Center and Library in your ecampus. You must be logged into your ecampus to access them.

The [End of Program Assessment \(EOP\) Manual](#) presents the requirements for formatting your capstone paper or thesis.

Your thesis statement is the foundation of a quality paper. It identifies what your paper is about (your topic) and what you plan to say about that topic (your point). A thesis statement should be written as a declarative sentence. That is, it is not written as a question.

A STRONG THESIS WILL BE:



AN ANSWER TO A QUESTION OR PROBLEM

More importantly, a thesis statement is your answer—one that you have synthesized from what you know and what other people have said about the question or problem.

AN ARGUMENT

While your instructors may ask you to write assignments that primarily inform rather than persuade, you still need to make a clear statement in reply to a question or problem.



THE FOCAL POINT OF YOUR ESSAY

Directly relate opposing arguments to the thesis and address the points through refutation and rebuttal.

A STATEMENT FOR WRITING

Your thesis statement is what you want to convey to your audience as you write.

GETTING STARTED ON YOUR MASTER'S THESIS

You can review additional resources from the Library about getting started on your Master's thesis below.



[Writing with an Academic Voice](#)



[Writing the Research Question](#)



[The Research Proposal](#)



[Writing a Thesis Statement](#)



[The Annotated Bibliography](#)



[The Literature Review](#)



[Presenting Data](#)



[Using Style Guides](#)



[Institutional Review Board \(IRB\) Application](#)



Questions?

Contact Academic Advising at Advising@apus.edu or 877-755-2787 ext. 3200.