

# Paragraph Unit

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## Lesson 3- Thesis Statements

Tennessee Standard - 6th Grade

Assessed - Select a thesis statement appropriate to the topic.

Developing - State a thesis with relevant supporting details.

Thesis statements are short passages, usually only one sentence, that summarize an essay or report. A thesis statement tells the main idea plus it states your opinion on that topic.

Subject + Attitude = Thesis

### Thesis Don'ts



Avoid starting your thesis sentence with In my opinion, I believe, I think, etc. Thesis statements are always your take on the topic.

Just stating a fact. A thesis is something you plan to make an argument about.

Attempting two topics at once (even if they seem related). Pick one and stick with it.

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### A Good Thesis is Limited

Examples:

#### Good

Good teachers make Mountain City Elementary a fantastic school.

One reason to live in Mountain City is access to many wonderful places to fish.



#### Needs To Be Limited

The world is a magnificent place to live.

Mountain City is a great place to live.

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A Good Thesis is Concise  
Examples:

Good

Mountain City Elementary needs several changes to its facility to make it a better school.



Needs To Be Concise

Some problems with Mountain City Elementary School is that it needs a larger playground, an air conditioned gym, an auditorium, restrooms connected to each classroom, running water in the classrooms, and a number of other physical changes to the building.



A Good Thesis is Specific  
Examples:

Good

Daily writing practice has lead to improved writing skills for the students at Mountain City Elementary.



Needs To Be Specific

Mountain City Elementary is a good school.



A Good Thesis is Not a Subject  
Examples:

Good

The cost of living in Mountain City is lower than in most other cities in the United States.



Should Not be a Subject

Cost of Living



A Good Thesis is Not a Title  
Examples:

Good

Good teaching has led to an increase in TCAP scores at Mountain City Elementary.



Should Not be a Title

Rising TCAP Scores at Mountain City Elementary



A Good Thesis is Not a Statement of Absolute Fact  
Examples:

Good  
The climate in Mountain City is ideal for outdoor sports.



Should Not be an Absolute Fact

The average temperature for Mountain City in winter is 34 and in summer is 75 degrees.

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### Activity 1

Below you will see pairs of sentences. Each pair contains one sentence that would make a better thesis statement. Write T before the sentence in each pair that would make a good thesis statement. Write N before each sentence that needs improvement.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Sachar illustrates that forming trustworthy friendships is beneficial to the characters in *Holes*.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Rex and Alan's nicknames are X-Ray and Squid.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ When Stanley asks Theodore where he can find water, Theodore grabs Stanley, throws him down, and says his name is Armpit.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Brutality is all around Camp Green Lake, and its harmful results are often shown.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ In *Holes* Camp Green Lake is dry, hard, and hot which symbolize Stanley's feelings of being trapped and sad while God's Thumb is green and fertile which symbolize Stanley's feelings of being free and happy.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ In *Holes*, the physical environment is a symbol of Stanley's feelings.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Onions signify a healing power in the novel.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Onions - A Food Rich in Sugar and Oil
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Over 3,000 species of lizards live throughout the world with the largest number living in warm climates.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ The Yellow Spotted Lizard in *Holes* represents death.

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### Activity 2

Write a thesis statement for each set of words.

1. red nail polish symbolize
2. sympathize characters unacceptable by society
3. Trout Walker similarities Warden

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Source of Information:  
Onions <http://www.encyclopedia.com/html/o1/onion.asp>

