

Lesson 70

Formulating a Thesis

- A **thesis** is a statement of the main idea of an essay or paper. The thesis is usually stated in the opening paragraph, and the topic sentence of each paragraph that follows enlarges upon or supports the idea it expresses.
- Often, the thesis suggests a method of development for the paragraphs that follow.

EXAMPLE: Hans Selye identified a three-stage human response to stress, which he called the General Adaptation Syndrome.
(This thesis sentence identifies the topic, and suggests that the paragraphs that will follow it will look at each of the three stages.)

A. Write a thesis statement for each of the topics below.

1. A comparison of two sports

2. A Canadian hero

3. A character in a novel you have been reading in class

B. Think of your own topics, and then write thesis statements that relate to them.

1. Topic: _____

Thesis: _____

2. Topic: _____

Thesis: _____

3. Topic: _____

Thesis: _____
