

# THESIS STATEMENTS

A thesis acts as a **roadmap** to your report or memo

A thesis should:

- make one strong, **specific claim**
- tell the reader **what to expect** in the rest of the document
- come at the **end of the opening paragraph** in your executive summary or introduction



## LET'S PRACTICE!

Consider the following assignment and thesis statements:

**Assignment:** Discuss the potential implications of the SEC's new 21st Century Disclosure Initiative. You should discuss the potential implications of the initiative for investors and for public companies.

### Ineffective thesis statement:

"There are some positive and negative implications of the new initiative in question."

#### Problems:

- **too vague** - what are the implications? what is the initiative?
- **too descriptive** - what is your position/argument/opinion about the topic?



### Effective thesis statement:

"The most far-reaching potential implication of the SEC's 21st Century Disclosure Initiative is the presentation of relevant disclosure information in a uniform format, which will facilitate more informed decision-making for both investors and public companies."

#### Improvements:

- **specifies** the initiative
- asserts a **strong claim**: "will facilitate more informed decision-making"
- states the **specific implications** for investors and public companies



## Ineffective thesis statement:

“The SEC’s 21st Century Disclosure Initiative has important implications for investors, while the SEC’s Plain English Initiative more directly impacts public companies.”



### Problem:

- **not specific** - audience does not know which initiative will be discussed, and the impact listed is vague

## Effective thesis statement:

“Because relevant disclosure information is crucial to making sound investment decisions, the SEC’s 21st Century Disclosure Initiative is more likely to have a significant impact on investors than on public companies.”

### Improvements:



- **provides evidence** to support the claim
- **specifies** the initiative
- indicates the **specific impact** on investors

## TIPS FOR WRITING AN EFFECTIVE THESIS

- ✓ articulate **one specific claim** about your topic
- ✓ **include relevant** and necessary **detail** for your audience
- ✓ ensure thesis **guides evidence and analysis** to come

