

Project Connection

Your Question

A well-written thesis question or statement clarifies exactly what your project is designed to do, and should have the following characteristics:

- The research *topic* is easily identifiable.
- The *purpose* of the research (probably to persuade others) is clear.
- The *order* of the presentation is implied. In other words, the order in which your research is completed and presented will be obvious after reading or listening to your question (or statement).
- It is *focused*. The people listening or reading your question (or statement) will know what you are going to prove.

A good question does not just happen. It requires some thought and some planning. Compared below are some examples of thesis questions (statements). Read each statement and then write your own question (or statement).

Unacceptable Statement	Why?	Acceptable Statement
The Great Lakes are irreplaceable.	Too general	The Great Lakes must be preserved because they offer people throughout North America resources that cannot be replaced.
Driver's Education programs for teenagers are excellent.	Too specific	Some programs designed to increase the driving ability of teenage drivers have been effective, but more efforts are needed, especially concerning teenage driving safety.

Evaluating Your Thesis

Use the following series of questions to determine if your thesis question (or statement) is effective.

1. Does my thesis question (or statement) clearly identify the main objective of my presentation?
2. After reading my thesis question (or statement) to a few classmates, is the order in which I will present my data clear?
3. Does my thesis question (or statement) use specific language that tells my audience what I am going to do, rather than vague language that does not give a clear indication of what I will do?
4. Is my thesis question (or statement) interesting? Does it make me want to research further, thus ensuring that my audience will want to listen to my research and presentation?
5. Is my thesis question too specific or too general? How should I fix it?
6. Does my thesis question show evidence of original thought? Is the topic I am proposing worth writing about?