

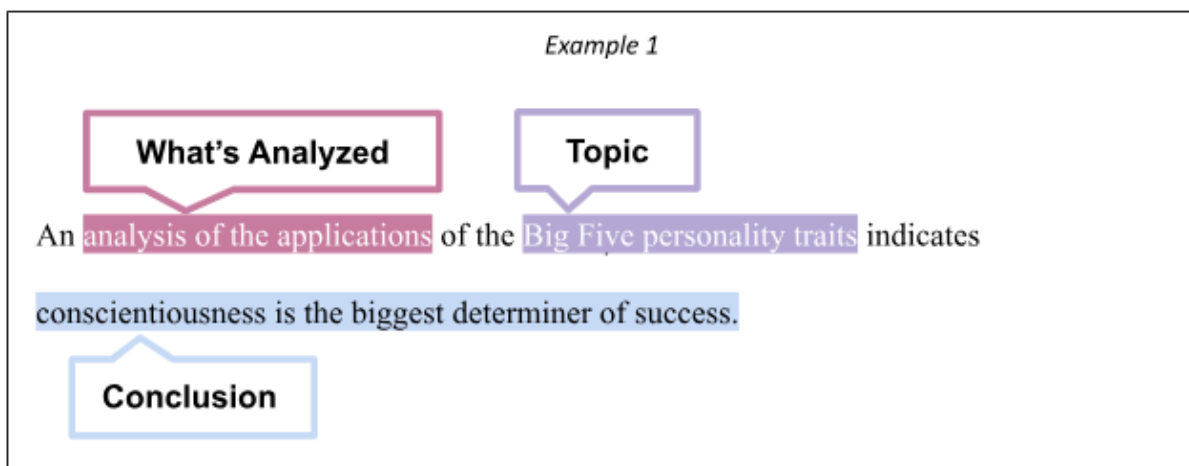
Analytical Thesis Statements

A thesis statement is used as the bones of every paper. It sets the stage for what the argument of the paper is and the order in which it will be discussed. To learn more about the general structure and function of thesis statements visit [“Essay Planning: How to Develop a Working Thesis Statement.”](#) In *analytical* writing, your claim is usually based on a finding or result; therefore, the thesis statement will reflect that through what is called an analytical thesis statement.

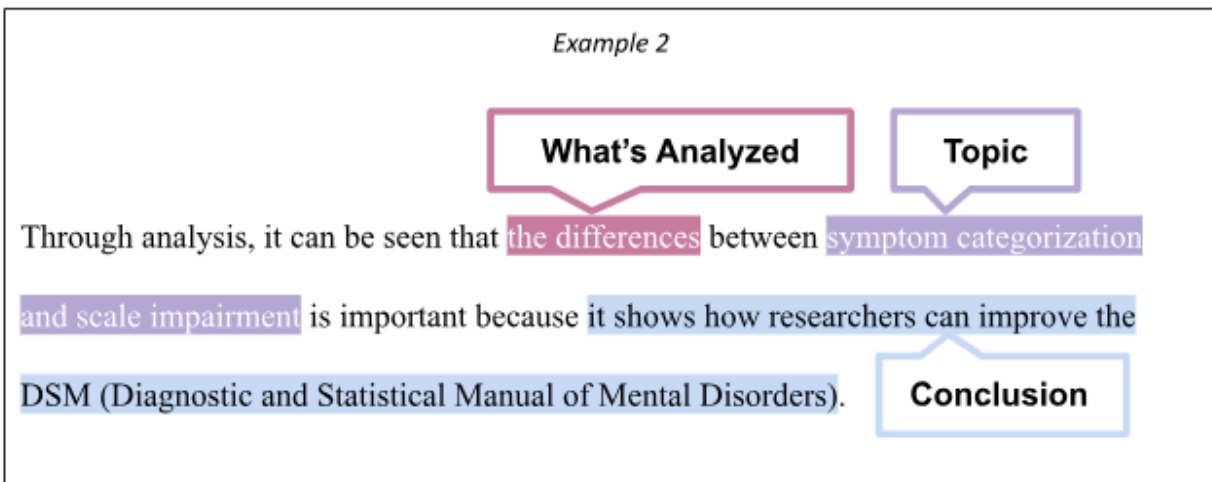
Analytical Thesis Statements	Traditional Thesis Statements
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● What Is Analyzed● Topic● Conclusion <p><i>Example:</i> In analyzing the stress of learning environments, it can be found that students experience physical, psychological, and emotional problems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Topic● Claim● Points <p><i>Example:</i> Stress in learning environments has led to serious physical, psychological, and emotional problems for students.</p>

Analytical Thesis Statements

When writing an analytical thesis statement, you want to identify what is analyzed, what the topic is, and what conclusion was found or why this finding is important. Instead of listing out points—commonly used in other thesis statements—you want to make sure you explain the results of your analysis. *NOTE: Avoid using “I” or “we” in analytical papers; it will help eliminate the researcher’s presence and any distraction from the purpose of the paper.*



In this case, we are analyzing the applications of the Big Five personality traits, which leads to the results or conclusion that conscientiousness is the biggest determiner of success.



In this case, we are analyzing the difference between symptom categorization and scale impairment, which leads to the results or conclusion of how to improve the DSM.

Activity 1

In the following sentences, label 1) what's analyzed, 2) the topic, and 3) the conclusion/result.

1. In analyzing the alternatives to prescribed anxiety medication, it was found that physical exercise and breathing techniques were most effective in reducing anxiety.
 - 1) What's Analyzed:
 - 2) Topic:
 - 3) Conclusion:
2. In *Grendel*, John Gardner uses imagery and comparisons to other creatures to demonstrate the Dragon character as a monstrous creature.
 - 1) What's Analyzed:
 - 2) Topic:
 - 3) Conclusion:
3. An analysis of the credibility of the Myers-Briggs personality test indicates the test has low reliability and validity.
 - 1) What's Analyzed:
 - 2) Topic:
 - 3) Conclusion:

4. Through analysis, it can be seen that the effects of placebo in depression medication are important because they account for a large portion of the drug response.
 - 1) What's Analyzed:
 - 2) Topic:
 - 3) Conclusion:

Activity 2

For each item, please identify which thesis statement is the *most* effective and explain why.

1.
 - a. Cerebellum sizes are different between humans and dolphins.
 - b. Through analysis, humans don't have good motor skills compared to dolphins.
 - c. In analyzing the difference between human and dolphin cerebellum, it is shown that dolphins have better motor skills than humans.
2.
 - a. Through analyzing the impacts of mother rats grooming their babies, it is shown that lack of grooming causes the babies to have anxiety once they grow up.
 - b. Epigenetics plays an important role in rat anxiety.
 - c. An analysis of rat grooming shows anxiety which is important to researchers.
3.
 - a. Through analysis, it can be found that the first 20 minutes after waking up is important because that is when the subconscious is most receptive to suggestion.
 - b. An analysis of brain waves around and within sleep indicates the subconscious is most impressionable within the first 20 minutes of waking up.
 - c. The subconscious is very impressionable within the first 20 minutes of waking up.

Answer Key for Activity 1

1. In analyzing the **alternatives** to **prescribed anxiety medication**, it was found that **physical exercise and breathing techniques** were most effective in reducing anxiety.
 - 1) What's Analyzed: alternatives
 - 2) Topic: prescribed anxiety medication (alternatives to)
 - 3) Conclusion: physical exercise and breathing techniques were most effective in reducing anxiety
2. In **Grendel**, John Gardner uses **imagery and comparisons to other creatures** to demonstrate **the Dragon character as a monstrous creature**.
 - 1) What's Analyzed: the book, *Grendel*
 - 2) Topic: imagery and comparisons to other creatures
 - 3) Conclusion: the Dragon character is (demonstrated as) a monstrous creature

3. An analysis of the **credibility** of the **Myers-Briggs personality test** indicates **the test has low reliability and validity**.
 - 1) What's Analyzed: credibility
 - 2) Topic: Myers Brigg personality test
 - 3) Conclusion: the test has low reliability and validity

4. Through analysis, it can be seen that the **effects** of **placebo in depression medication** are important because **they account for a large portion of the drug response**.
 - 1) What's Analyzed: effects
 - 2) Topic: placebo in depression medication
 - 3) Conclusion: placebo accounts for a large portion of the drug response

Answer Key for Activity 2

1. c. Option “c” is the only option that includes a clear **evaluation or conclusion** (dolphins have better motor skills than humans). In addition, it includes **what is analyzed** (the difference) and the **topic** (human and dolphin’s cerebellum).

Answer “a” simply states a fact. We know the **topic** (humans and dolphin’s cerebellum) and a hint at **what is analyzed** (the difference between them) but not the **conclusion** (why it matters or why it is important).

Answer “b” includes the **conclusion or evaluation** (humans don’t have good motor skills compared to dolphins), but it is phrased awkwardly and could use better flow. Also, it doesn’t specify how that conclusion was made (**what’s analyzed** and the **topic**).

2. a. Option “a” is the only option that includes **what is analyzed** (the impacts), **the topic** (mother rats grooming their babies), and a clear **evaluation or conclusion** (that lack of grooming causes the babies to have anxiety once they grow up).

Answer “b” is a statement that does make a strong **claim** but doesn’t explain **what is analyzed** or have a strong **conclusion**. Why or how would rat anxiety matter? How did we figure this out?

Answer “c” is another **claim** but does not specify **what is being analyzed** and how rat grooming shows anxiety or why that is important (incomplete **conclusion**).

3. b. Option “b” is the only answer that includes **what is analyzed** (brain waves), **the topic** (time around sleep), and a clear **conclusion** (the subconscious is most impressionable within the first 20 minutes of waking up).

Answer “a” includes the **conclusion** that was found (the subconscious is most receptive to suggestion within the first 20 minutes of waking up) but not **what is analyzed** (brain waves) or the **topic** (time around sleep).

Answer “c” has a **conclusion** (the subconscious is very impressionable within the first 20 minutes of waking up) but we don’t know **what is analyzed** (how we came to this result) or a clear **topic** (is it the subconscious? waking up?).

References

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