

# **Argumentative Essay: Thesis**

## **Extended Writing Project Prompt and Directions:**

Every day the media run headlines celebrating heroes among us. The firefighter who charges into the burning building to save an infant is a hero. The nurse who risks her own life to help patients with infectious diseases—she’s a hero too. What qualities do all heroes have in common? What makes one person more heroic than another?

## **Your argumentative essay with research should include:**

- **an explicitly stated claim about the individual who you think is the most heroic**
- **a logically organized argument supported by persuasive reasons and relevant textual evidence**
- **information from one unit text and at least one other print or digital source**
- **citations of your sources and a Works Cited page**
- **a conclusion that restates your claim, sums up your reasons and evidence, and leaves your readers with an original thought about the topic**

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## **Thesis**

The thesis of an argumentative essay takes the form of a claim. A claim is the writer’s opinion about the topic of the essay. It is a statement of position, belief, or judgment. A claim might be introduced with certain phrases that make the writer’s point of view clear, such as “It is believed,” “Most should,” or “One must.” An opinion cannot be proven to be true, but it can be supported with relevant evidence facts, statistics, quotations from experts, examples, so that it seems true or logical. The claim of an argument typically appears in the introductory section, often as the last sentence.

## **Identification and Application:**

A thesis statement or claim in an argumentative essay:

- states an opinion about the topic of the essay
- previews the ideas and evidence that will be presented in the body paragraphs of the essay
- gets stated in the introductory section, which usually consists of one paragraph

## **Practice:**

Write a thesis statement in the form of a claim for your argumentative essay. Your statement should identify the individual you consider a hero and state a reason why you believe so. When you are finished writing your claim, exchange your work with a partner for peer review. How clear is your partner’s claim? Is it obvious why he or she thinks the individual is a hero? How well does the claim address all the parts of the prompt? Offer suggestions and make constructive comments that will help your partner develop an effective thesis.