

Essay Writing: Thesis Statements - Save My HSC Show - Episode 6

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Transcript

In today's episode, what we'll be doing is introducing essay-writing by talking about thesis statement. I'm going to do my best to keep this short because overthinking this is the last thing that you would be doing for your essays.

Firstly, let's have a little bit of a think about what a thesis statement is. Essentially, a thesis statement is what you think about a particular topic. I wouldn't go deeper than that. Yes, you are answering a question. However, you're also answering a question based on a theme or module or idea that you have been studying.

Let's break this down to how your brain works. So, you've been studying a particular topic and now you have formulated an opinion on that topic. So your thesis statement is the response to a question on that particular topic. Don't think about it more than that.

Whenever you are responding to a question, just say, "What do I think about this topic?" Don't think about it. Don't even call it a thesis statement because you can mess with your mind and that's what will break you down because you'll create this big idea of what you expect it to be when it's just a sentence, one tiny little sentence.

Now, in saying that, the reason why it is important is just because it's the idea that you're going to refer to constantly throughout your essay. The primary purpose of a thesis is every single idea or thing that you cover should be relating to your thesis in some way, shape or form.

That's why if a marker reads your thesis and introduction, they can usually gauge what mark that essay should get entirely because it's very easy to be able

to tell, “Okay, they’ve got these ideas. These ideas fit together. The logic is very easy to follow very quickly.”

So to construct a good thesis statement, I would actually say focus heavily on learning your topic. If you know your topic, you’ll be able to come up with a good thesis statement. It should roll off your tongue.

And the main thing is when you do have an exam for a particular module, although you can’t prepare exactly what thesis will be, you can have something adjustable. So, phrase that speaks to the human condition that also speaks to that particular module, that could be quite useful. But make sure that you test it with a series of different questions, so that you can actually change it as you put it down.

For each different module, you’re actually going to have to use a new type of thesis statement. For your area of study, your thesis statements are going to be quite broad. The discovery area of study is quite broad, but then for something like module A, it’s fairly tight and language-focused.

So the way that you would answer those questions are completely different. However, break it down to exactly that thought process of, “What do I think about on this topic?” Yes, that seems logical.

Essentially, that’s all it comes down to. I really don’t want this to be a topic that does get over-thought because it’s not that complicated. And the more you complicate it in your mind, the more complicated it becomes.

Now, a thesis statement should be quite a solid statement about what you think. So try to avoid phrases and words that are a little bit wishy-washy like can, could, if. We want solid thoughts that have been formulated. You have a solid position, a solid idea that exists in your mind. If you sound unsure in your thesis, your entire essay can come across as shaky.

The main thing is take a position strongly and be okay with that position. Don’t get to the point where you’re actually writing your essay until you’re comfortable writing a solid statement about what you think on that topic. It doesn’t matter

about answering specific questions because if you're comfortable with the topic, you'll be able to put together a coherent thesis statement.