

Composing Your Thesis Statement

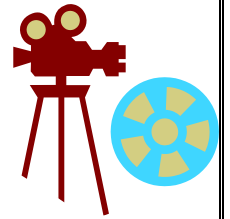
A thesis statement:

- Argues a point
- Says why that point is valid

In the case of your research paper, you are arguing that your film belongs in the AFI Top 100 list. It is up to you to synthesize your research and say *why* it belongs there.

Process of creating a thesis statement

- Review your notecards. Identify the 3 most-supported topics (for example, costumes, music, and acting).
- See if any remaining notecards can be adjusted to fit into one of those topics. (For example, you may have a “timeliness” notecard that acknowledges how the movie captures the film’s time period really well; since the costumes are a part of the effort to fit in the time period, you can place the original “timeliness” notecard under “costume.”)
- Determine what your research proves about your topic. (For example, the costumes represent the era well, the music captures emotions, and the acting inspired a new generation of actors. **Simply saying “the costumes were good, the music was excellent, and the acting was great” is not specific enough!**)
- Put it all together and create your thesis!
- Sample thesis statement: *Rookie of the Year* belongs in the American Film Institute’s Top 100 list because of its authentic costuming, emotionally-insightful music, and inspiring acting. (This is what we call a **three point thesis**. Notice how there are three points to be proven! Each point translates to one body paragraph in the order you have listed)



Name:

My movie:

Three reasons my movie belongs on the Top 100 list:

1.

2.

3.

My thesis:

My hook:

My intro paragraph: