Thesis Statements
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A thesis statement tells the reader what the essay is about. It predicts, controls, and obligates. It makes a claim that takes a side and needs to be proved.
Elements of a thesis

- A well-written thesis statement includes a claim, a unifying element, and the subtopics of the essay (optional).
- A thesis statement is one sentence.
- A thesis comes at the end of the introductory paragraph.
- A thesis is a statement, not a question.
• In order to create fear, Poe uses a variety of literary devices such as imagery, foreshadowing, and the narrator’s feelings.

• **Topic:** Effects of Poe’s writing technique

• **Unifying Element:** In order to create fear

• **Claim:** Poe uses a variety of literary devices

• **Subtopics:** Imagery, foreshadowing, narrator’s feelings.
In The Declaration of Independence, Jefferson uses a list of grievances and allusions to natural law to argue that England has violated the social contract.

- **Topic:** Declaration of Independence/Jefferson’s argument
- **Unifying Element/Claim:** Jefferson argues that England has violated the social contract
- **Subtopics:** list of grievances/allusions
Examples: Identify the Elements

- Star Wars is a contemporary example of the hero’s journey through the call to adventure, the mentor relationship, and the return home.

- The family atmosphere, excellent food, and enjoyable rides make Disneyland the happiest place on earth.