

THE BARE BASICS

STATE THE TOPIC

The thesis should be a single sentence in the introduction that includes basic information on what the speech is about

MATCH SPEECH TYPE

The thesis should match the type of speech you are giving, whether informative, persuasive, or celebratory.

MAKE IT PROVABLE

The thesis should state your position regarding the speech topic and be provable in the body of the speech with evidence from credible sources

TYPES OF SPEECHES AND THEIR THESIS STATEMENTS

INFORMATIVE SPEECH

- Focuses on teaching your audience something new
- Includes what conclusion the audience should come to with the information shared

Examples: Topic: The themes in *To Kill a Mockingbird*

Thesis: Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* delves into the ideas of good vs evil, morality, and social inequality.

TIP: If you're having trouble coming up with a thesis for an informative speech, it may help to brainstorm the intended purpose for your speech. For the example above, the purpose would be to inform the audience of the main themes present throughout the book.

PERSUASIVE/ARGUMENTATIVE SPEECH

- Focuses on changing audience perception or encourages action on the topic
- States the stance the speaker will be taking on the subject throughout the speech

Examples: Topic: Homelessness

Stance: The homeless should be allowed aid.

Thesis: The homeless population should be allowed better access to public aid services in order to improve their quality of life and help them get back on their feet.

EXTRA TIPS

-If you are having a hard time thinking of a topic or thesis, go back to the purpose of the speech. Consider the interests of your audience, your interests, and the speech situation. Ask yourself, what can the audience gain from my speech? Why does this topic matter?

-Ensure that your thesis is provable and/or debatable. Use your main points to prove your thesis and help explain your perspective.

-After finishing the rest of your speech, go back to your thesis statement to make sure that the topic and stance taken are consistent throughout your entire speech.

-Make sure you specifically state the thesis in your introduction--this is the main theme!