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- Strong expository essays show the connections between specific, concrete facts or events and broader ideas that allow us to make sense of the world.

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- ◆ But in less argumentative papers, it can simply forecast the territory your essay will cover.
- ◆ Having a thesis is useful to both the writer and the reader.

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- ◆ A thesis statement is the essay's controlling idea.

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- ◆ A thesis is a reader strategy.
- ◆ A well formed thesis is a writer strategy; it helps you (a) develop and cover all parts of an assignment, (b) know when you are “done,” and (c) stay organized so that you are wandering off in unrelated directions.

Thesis statements should define a subject area easily managed in an essay-sized piece of writing:

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Portraying a woman in charge of both her career and her sexuality, Heather Locklear (Amanda on “Melrose Place”) presents a character who only abuses the gains made by the women’s movement.

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- ◆ While many public officials blame poor student performance on Georgia's teachers, statistics show that parental involvement in a child's education has the greatest effect on her or his academic success. So in addition to training its teachers, Georgia needs to create some innovative new programs not only to show parents how they can help their children succeed but to provide them with the opportunities to do so.