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### Writing About Art - Thesis Statement

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# Thesis statement

A thesis statement:

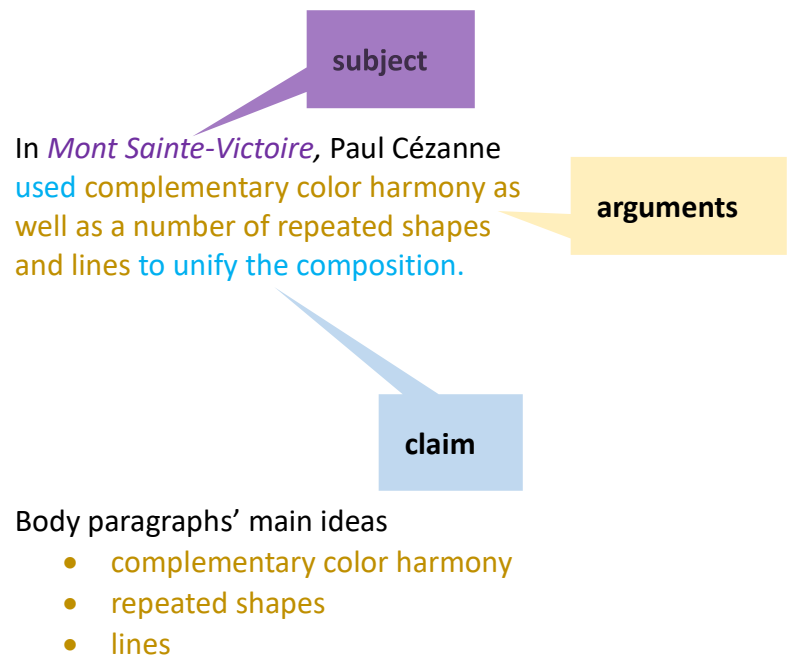
- Presents **your opinion** [claim] on a **subject** [a work of art] and lists your **arguments** [developed in the body of your essay] to support your claim.
- Justifies **discussion**
- Is located at **the end of introductory** paragraph

A thesis statement **should never** contain the following: *in my opinion, I think, I believe*, etc. The entire thesis represents what you believe. In addition, it **should not** be in the form of a question.

Example 1.



Figure 1. Paul Cézanne, *Mont Sainte-Victoire*, 1904. Oil on canvas, 22 1/2 x 38 1/4 in. (57.2 x 97.2 cm). Princeton University Art Museum



Example 2.



Figure 2. Rembrandt van Rijn, *The Night Watch*, 1642. Oil on canvas, 11' 11" x 14' 4". (57.2 x 97.2 cm). Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam.

Exercise:

Analyze the thesis below.

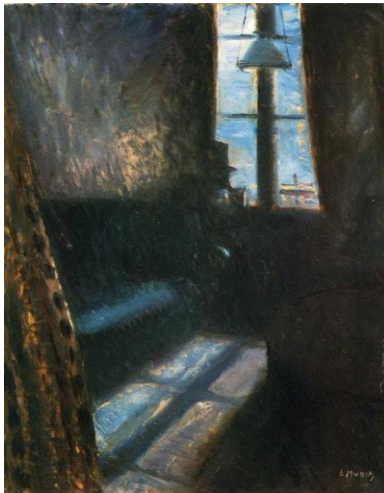


Figure 3. Edvard Munch, *Night in St. Cloud*, 1890. Oil on canvas, 64.5 x 54 cm. The National Gallery, Oslo.

arguments

Rembrandt's use of **chiaroscuro**, **limited color palette**, and **implied directional lines** **contribute to the sense of drama** in *The Night Watch*.

claim

subject

Body paragraphs' main ideas

- **chiaroscuro**
- **color**
- **implied directional lines**