

## Possible thesis statements

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

**SD** - I strongly disagree

**D** - I disagree

**N** - I have no opinion on the matter

**A** - I agree

**SA** - I strongly agree

**?** - I can't understand the statement

### Drugs

Japanese universities should prohibit smoking on campus. \_\_\_\_\_

Marijuana should be made legal in Japan. \_\_\_\_\_

The drinking age in Japan should be lowered to 18. \_\_\_\_\_

The drinking age in Japan should be raised to 21. \_\_\_\_\_

### Music

Internet downloading is destroying the music industry. \_\_\_\_\_

The English language has a negative effect on Japanese pop music. \_\_\_\_\_

Japanese idol groups have a negative effect on society. \_\_\_\_\_

### International Relations

The American military should leave Okinawa. \_\_\_\_\_

Japan should have a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council. \_\_\_\_\_

Japan should stop its whaling program. \_\_\_\_\_

Japan (China) should give up its claims to the Senkaku Islands. \_\_\_\_\_

Japan should accept more refugees. \_\_\_\_\_

### Law

The death penalty should be abolished. \_\_\_\_\_

Japan should introduce anti-discrimination laws to better protect foreigners. \_\_\_\_\_

Japan should relax its gun laws. \_\_\_\_\_

Pet shops should not be allowed to sell animals. \_\_\_\_\_

### Sports

Sumo should become an Olympic sport. \_\_\_\_\_

The Japanese Baseball League should add (eight) new teams to the league. \_\_\_\_\_

Japan's J League soccer league should allow teams to have more foreign players. \_\_\_\_\_

Tokyo should (not) host the 2020 Olympic Games. \_\_\_\_\_

### Education

English should not be taught in Japanese elementary schools. \_\_\_\_\_

Computer education should start in elementary schools. \_\_\_\_\_

English should not be a compulsory subject in Japanese universities. \_\_\_\_\_

Japanese universities should enroll more foreign students. \_\_\_\_\_

School uniforms should be abolished. \_\_\_\_\_

Japanese universities should include an English interview as part of their entrance exams. \_\_\_\_\_

Chinese should be taught as a regular course in Japanese schools. \_\_\_\_\_

Media literacy should be taught in high school. \_\_\_\_\_

Japanese junior high schools must improve their sex education. \_\_\_\_\_

The Japanese government must make university more affordable for students. \_\_\_\_\_

### Health

American fast food chains are having an adverse effect on Japanese young people's health. \_\_\_\_\_

Produce grown in Fukushima is safe for human consumption. \_\_\_\_\_

Euthanasia should be legal in some cases. \_\_\_\_\_

### Japanese Society

- The Japanese government should introduce laws to reduce “karoshi”. \_\_\_\_\_
- The Japanese government must do more to stop the declining birthrate. \_\_\_\_\_
- The Japanese government should do more to prevent discrimination against homosexuals. \_\_\_\_\_
- The system of “amakudari” in Japanese politics must be eliminated. \_\_\_\_\_
- The Japanese government should accept more immigrant workers into Japan. \_\_\_\_\_
- The Japanese consumption tax should be lowered (raised). \_\_\_\_\_
- The Japanese media does not accurately report on the issue of (Korean “comfort women”). \_\_\_\_\_
- Globalization is leading to a loss of Japanese identity. \_\_\_\_\_
- The Japanese government should establish a quota system for women in government. \_\_\_\_\_
- Ties and jackets should be banned from Japanese workplaces. \_\_\_\_\_

### Media

- Violence in movies causes violent behavior amongst children. \_\_\_\_\_
- Japanese variety shows have a negative effect on Japanese young people. \_\_\_\_\_
- Beer and alcohol companies should not be allowed to advertise on television. \_\_\_\_\_
- The images of women in American movies and television are quite unrealistic. \_\_\_\_\_
- Violent video games are partly responsible for recent violent behavior among young people. \_\_\_\_\_
- Video games are producing lethargic children. \_\_\_\_\_
- The Japanese government should not regulate expressions of violence in video games. \_\_\_\_\_

### The Environment

- Japanese restaurants should stop using disposable chopsticks. \_\_\_\_\_
- Japan must stop using nuclear power. \_\_\_\_\_
- Japanese supermarkets should stop using plastic bags. \_\_\_\_\_
- Japanese industry is responsible for the high levels of hay fever in the Tokyo area. \_\_\_\_\_
- Developed countries should reduce their carbon dioxide output before they expect developing countries to do so. \_\_\_\_\_
- The city of Tokyo should introduce more gas stations that can service electric cars. \_\_\_\_\_
- The Tokyo government must take steps to decrease the crow population in Tokyo. \_\_\_\_\_
- Japanese newspapers should stop printing newsprint and publish only on the Internet. \_\_\_\_\_
- Japanese universities should ban the use of PET bottles on campus. \_\_\_\_\_
- The government should protect natural water resources from foreign companies. \_\_\_\_\_

### Culture

- Kabuki should change to keep the interest of young Japanese people and to keep kabuki from disappearing. \_\_\_\_\_
- Japanese festivals should re-introduce religious elements into the festivals to preserve Japanese customs. \_\_\_\_\_
- Japanese culture needs to be emphasized more in the high school education system. \_\_\_\_\_
- The Japanese government should do more to promote Japanese culture to other countries. \_\_\_\_\_
- Parents in developed countries should not be allowed to adopt and relocate children from developing countries. \_\_\_\_\_

### Technology

- Low Cost Carrier (LCC) airlines should be more strictly regulated by the government. \_\_\_\_\_
- Text messaging is hurting the face to face communication skills of Japanese young people. \_\_\_\_\_
- Children under the age of (14) should not be allowed to use social networking internet sites. \_\_\_\_\_
- The Japanese government should accept Bitcoin as a virtual currency. \_\_\_\_\_

### Tip:

It is possible to make a thesis statement that is the opposite of one of the statements above:

This university should prohibit smoking on campus.



This university should **not** prohibit smoking on campus.

# EXTRA HELP: WRITING YOUR OWN THESIS STATEMENT

## 1. A thesis statement must be an opinion, not a fact.

If a thesis statement is a fact, then you can't really discuss or debate it. A thesis statement should be an argument which you can develop through your paper.

### **Factual Statements**

Many factories pollute the environment.

Japan's population is growing older.

### **Good Thesis Statements**

Pollution from factories is the main cause of global warming.

Japan's aging population is going to create a crisis in the health care system.

## 2. A thesis statement shouldn't be too highly opinionated or sentimental.

Your thesis statement should be an opinion, but it shouldn't be an overly strong one. You don't want to make your reader uncomfortable.

### **Highly Opinionated Statements**

The American government is too arrogant.

The Academic Writing course in GMS is useless.

### **Good Thesis Statements**

The American government should...

Improvements must be made to the Academic Writing course for it to be more useful for students.

## 3. A thesis statement shouldn't be too broad or general.

The more general a thesis statement is the more you have to write to cover it. Thesis statements should be narrow and focused.

### **General Statements**

Japan's education system needs to be changed.

Drunk Driving needs to be stopped.

### **Good Thesis Statements**

English teachers in Japanese junior high schools need additional training.

Drunk Driving laws need to be enforced more than they are now.

How much English research are you willing to do? If you want to do most of your research in Japanese, then you might want to choose a thesis statement that is Japan-specific.

## 4. A thesis statement shouldn't be an announcement.

Don't make an announcement about your topic and forget to give your opinion.

### **Announcements**

I will write about gun control in America.

My essay will discuss pollution made by factories in Japan.

### **Good Thesis Statements**

America needs stricter gun control laws in order to reduce violent crime.

The pollution made by Japanese factories is not a major contributor to global warming.