

## Purpose Statement

**Definition:** a sentence or sentences that tell what you want to accomplish in your paper. It controls, or guides your research.

**Key words** usually found in a purpose statement:

To support, to argue against, to prove, to disapprove, to determine, to analyze, to define, to explain the cause, to explain the effect, to establish the cause, to establish the effect, to describe, to identify, to classify, to relate, to compare, to contrast, to examine, to show, to explain, to persuade, to inform.....

**Examples** of a purpose statement:

The purpose of this paper is to prove that Jane Goodall did some amazing and admirable work in teaching the world about the habits of gorillas.

The purpose of this paper is to show how Michael Jackson had remarkable musical talent, but his talent became overshadowed by the child molestation charges made against him.

When you begin writing your paper, your purpose statement will be **revised** into a **thesis statement**. **The thesis statement will not contain the phrase “the purpose of this paper is...”**