

## Example Thesis Statements

Remember, one useful approach to writing a thesis-based term paper is to view it as a “**Comparison of Perspectives**” paper where you compare/contrast studies supporting two or more different or competing hypotheses.

### 1) Topic/Title: Understanding the Latitudinal Species Richness Gradient

Thesis Statement:

“Divergence in species richness is attributed to a combination of seven explanations. Together these hypotheses provide the most thorough and complete explanation to the existence of a richness gradient for all species. The strongest explanations are.....”

### 2) Topic/Title: Adaptive Significance of Alarm Calls in Mammals

Thesis Statement:

“Alarm calls can serve as a means of critical communication in animal species which form large groups; these calls have been postulated to have a strong adaptive value. Behavioral, phylogenetic and genetic data from a number of different species supports the hypothesis that in particular circumstances, alarm calls seem to have a selective benefit in populations at high risk of predation .”

### 3) Topic/Title: Assessing the Validity of the Biological Species Concept versus the Phylogenetic Species Concept: A Comparative Approach

Thesis Statement: “The biological species concept coupled to the phylogenetic species concept can adequately explain patterns of reproductive isolation and genetic divergence in several species, while several species’ patterns are most simply explained by one or the other concepts.”

### 4) Topic/Title: African elephants and sex-specific modes of communication

Thesis statement: “Differences between male and female elephants may be suggestive of sexual selection operating to increase female choice and male-male competition.”