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THESIS STATEMENT GUIDELINES & RUBRIC

A THESIS STATEMENT:

Is the heart of a well-constructed essay. If the thesis statement is unclear or not available, it indicates that the rest of the essay will be composed of a series of loosely related facts and unfocused descriptions. This is the first part of the essay that your instructor looks for as a measure of your writing mastery and achievement of the essay's prompt.

Your target audience for an essay is the instructor who created the assignment. Take their point of view into consideration as you write. Remember your essay is one among one hundred or more—for them your writing is WORK! Make it easy for them!

Thesis statements guide their eye to your ideas and should not be a red flag for upcoming mistakes. It should:

- ❖ tells the reader how you will interpret the significance of the subject matter under discussion.
- ❖ Be a road map for the paper; in other words, it tells the reader what to expect from the rest of the paper.
- ❖ directly answer the question asked. A thesis is an interpretation of a question or subject, not the subject itself. The subject, or topic, of an essay might be World War II or Moby Dick; a thesis must then offer a way to understand the war or the novel.
- ❖ make a direct claim that others might dispute.
- ❖ be a sentence near the beginning of your paper (most often, at the end of the first paragraph) that presents your argument to the reader. The rest of the paper, the body of the essay, gathers and organizes evidence that will persuade the reader of the logic of your interpretation.

THESIS STATEMENT RUBRIC

- ✓ CONVENTIONS: Written as a, complex, focused and grammatically correct sentence.
- ✓ LANGUAGE & VOCABULARY: Includes ESSAY FOCUS such as key elements such as TOPIC, AUTHOR, and ELEMENTS to be analyzed.
- ✓ ELABORATION: The writer expresses a sophisticated and specific declarative opinion about the subject.
- ✓ ORGANIZATION: Precise and Active VERBS announces in-depth understanding of the subject or topic.
- ✓ STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: Proposes an idea that is both supportable and arguable. It avoids clichés, obvious observations, and universally recognized truths.