Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please read the information below to assist your formation of what a thesis statement is. The examples on the reverse side of this page will serve as models of proper thesis statements.

It's a good idea to formulate a **working** **thesis** early in the writing process. Your tentative thesis will probably be less graceful than the thesis you include in the final version of your essay, but your research will help form the final version.

“Don't worry too soon about the exact wording of your thesis, however, because your main point may change as you refine your ideas."  
(Diana Hacker, *The Bedford Handbook*, 6th ed. Bedford/St. Martin's, 2002)

**A thesis statement** is the grand opening of a research study or paper or like a cherry on the top of a pastry, it is an indicator for the study, that follows.

More precisely it can be defined as “the land mark” for the whole work, since it defines the target that the study intends to arrive at. A thesis statement is the hypothesis that you are going to prove through your study.

Thesis Statement = Topic + Opinion + Suggestion

Scholarly works need a predefined theory with few presumptions in order to proceed. You cannot prove a theory out of thin air. So, a thesis statement provides justifiable grounds to your presumption so that it can be carried for further research, to evaluate for the proposed prospects.

The main idea of the thesis statement should be thought of before you delve into active research. You should write the **final thesis** statement after you have completed your research to be sure you have enough evidence to argue your topic.

Elements of a **good thesis statement** are as follows:

* A good thesis statement should clearly tell a reader the objective of the study being carried
* It should be easily comprehensible even by a layman
* A good thesis statement should concisely describe your standpoint for the topic that you are dealing in. (Check with thesis statement examples to get a better idea.)
* It should be proved with the finding through the research and analysis part of your study

**In short, a good thesis statement should be brief, simple, clear, concise and very much to the point, while conveying your viewpoint in an understandable manner.**

Please view the examples below to help you form an idea of what a good thesis statement is:

* Bad example:  Pesticides are bad because they are used to kill bugs and they smell.
* Good example:  The government should ban the use of pesticides because they endanger the lives of farm workers and can cause cancer in people who eat food treated with pesticides.
* Tip: A good thesis statement is based on a close reading of the topic.  This means that you might have to go back over the work to come up with an interesting idea to write about, taking notes as you research.

**1. Texas A&M University: Office of Academic Supplemental Instruction Services.**

**Weak**  
a) Going to school is important.

b) Traveling around the world is exciting.

**Strong**  
a) Researching and visiting universities before making a final decision is very beneficial because you will be able to experience the campus, meet the professors, and truly understand the traditions of the university.

b) Because the internet is filled with many advertising and marketing opportunities, people should utilize it to expand their home based businesses and build their customer base.

**2. Idaho State University (ISU) Writing Center.**

**Weak**   
College students shouldn’t have to take a required core curriculum, and many core courses are graded too stiffly. (These are two different issues, so the writer has to choose one.)

**Strong**  
College students shouldn’t have to take a required core curriculum.

**Weak**  
The technological changes of the last hundred years have been amazing.

(This is a huge topic, covering everything from genetically modified foods in India to the iPod. Choose one kind of technology or one perspective.)

**Strong**  
Over the last 20 years, changes in technology have made a profound difference in the way American college students communicate.

**Weak**  
Drunk driving is a serious problem with long-lasting consequences.  
(Does anyone not believe that drunk driving is serious? Since all that’s really argued about is how to stop it, that’s what a paper on the topic should focus on.)

**Strong**  
An offender’s driver’s license should be automatically suspended after a drunk driving conviction.