THESIS STATEMENT

Purpose of a Thesis Statement

- Clearly states the central idea of the essay
- Limits the topic to a controlling idea about the subject
- Orient your reader to your subject matter
- Provides a purpose for your research or makes a point

Guidelines for a Thesis Statement

- Consider the audience in selecting your subject
- Be sure there is a controlling idea that is clearly stated
- Make sure there is only one controlling idea
- Avoid an announcement
- Use specific language
- Make sure the statement is neither too narrow nor too broad
- Establish an appropriate tone for the subject matter and intended audience
- May have a plan of development that informs the reader of the steps in the essay

Tips for Writing the Thesis Statement

- Carefully read the assignment and make sure you are on the right track
- Pre-write (brainstorm) about your topic, narrowing down your ideas
- Make sure the statement is personally tailored to your claim and not something that anyone else could have written
- Ask yourself “So what?” to clarify your ideas
- Avoid first person unless it is specifically required in the assignment
- Revise the statement after you have completed your essay