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**Walk-ins welcome, no appointment needed!**
What is a Thesis Statement?

It is usually a sentence somewhere in the first paragraph that presents your argument to the reader. The thesis statement...

◊ tells the reader how you will interpret the significance of the discussed subject matter
◊ tells the reader what to expect from the rest of the paper
◊ Directly answers the question asked of you
◊ makes a claim that others might dispute

How do I Know if my Thesis is Strong?

◊ Do I answer the question?
Re-read your assignment to make sure your thesis addresses the assignment’s focus

◊ Have I taken a position that others might challenge or oppose?
Make sure you’re not just providing a summary

◊ Is my thesis statement specific enough?
Your thesis should prevent readers from saying “So what?” or “How?” or “Why?” These are signs of being too vague or open-ended.

Examples

Weak Thesis Statement

“The North and South fought the Civil War for many reasons, some of which were the same and some different.”

◊ Provides no direction of what reader can expect
◊ Makes no claim
◊ Does not provide an interpretation of subject matter
◊ Does not answer any question

Strong Thesis Statement

“While both Northerners and Southerners believed they fought against tyranny and oppression, Northerners focused on the oppression of slaves while Southerners defended their own right to self-government.”

◊ Interprets evidence
◊ Establishes the significance of the question
◊ Makes a claim that can be disputed
◊ Attempts to answer a question that has been posed