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## Creating a Thesis Statement

To construct a thesis statement, you will provide a subject or topic plus a comment or proposition about the subject (Topic or subject + Comment or proposition). The topic should be explicit and your comment should contain an important statement that directs your audience toward your findings by either asserting or denying something about the topic.

A. Characteristics of a good working thesis:

1. The thesis should be one declarative sentence that has a subject and a predicate.
2. The thesis should be interesting.
3. The thesis should be as specific as possible—avoid broad topics
4. The thesis should be realistic.

B. Purpose of thesis statement:

1. Thesis statements identify for you and your audience the topic of your document.
2. Thesis statements provide the foundation for good writing.

C. Writing the thesis statement:

1. Create a working thesis that you may change as you begin to analyze your sources and incorporate the support into your paper.
2. Create a list of topics (an essay map) that you will cover in your paper.
  - a) The essay map alerts the reader to the organization of your entire paper.
3. The thesis and essay map are the topic sentence for the entire essay.
4. Thesis statement and essay map are always located in the first paragraph or two of a small paper.
5. Thesis statement and essay map are further down in the introduction of a larger work.

D. Editing the working thesis statement:

1. The working thesis and the essay map will keep you organized while you write your paper.
2. You can always change your thesis statement and you can always take away or add a topic to your essay map.
3. Your first task of revision will be to make certain that you have supported your thesis statement and followed your essay map.
  - a) If you have topics within your paper that you didn't mention in your original essay map, you will adjust the essay map accordingly.