The Basics: Writing a Thesis

What is a Thesis?
According to the Oxford Dictionary:
“An statement or theory that is put forward as a premise to be maintained or proved.”

A Thesis:
- Makes a specific claim for defense or dispute
- Tells the reader what to expect
- Answers a question or responds to instructions
- Typically is one to two sentences
- Usually comes at the end of an introduction (A thesis may be closer to the middle of an introduction, but in U.S. academic writing it typically is placed in the introduction.)
- Unifies the whole paper
- Ties together supporting evidence

How does my thesis tie in to the rest of my paper?
- The statement given in your thesis should be proven throughout each body paragraph with carefully chosen evidence.
- Check each body paragraph to see if your topic and evidence support your thesis.
- Remember to restate your thesis in the conclusion.

Thesis vs. Topic: What is the difference?
A topic is general, but a thesis is specific. When writing a paper you begin with a topic and narrow it down to a specific thesis statement.

How do I write a thesis?
This simple formula can be useful for papers in many different fields:

Example: Thesis Formula:

By examining/exploring/etc. **Reason #1 (Must Be Strong)**, **Reason #2 (Optional)**, and **Reason #3 (Optional)**, this paper presents/considers/argues **Opinion**.