Thesis Statement Checklist


Test your thesis statement by asking these questions:

1. Does my thesis sentence attempt to answer (or at least to explore) a challenging intellectual question?
2. Is the point I'm making one that would generate discussion and argument, or is it one that would leave people asking, “So what?”
3. Is my thesis too vague? Too general? Should I focus on some more specific aspect of my topic?
4. Does my thesis deal directly with the topic at hand?
5. Does my thesis indicate the direction of my argument? Does it suggest a structure for my paper?
6. If I am writing a research paper, does my introductory paragraph set the broader stage for my topic, and does the introduction “place” my thesis within the larger, ongoing scholarly discussion about my topic?
7. Is the language in my thesis statement vivid, clear, and specific? Is it direct and emphatic, setting up a specific cause and effect situation that will be developed throughout the paper?

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