Why, Mr. E?

* A thesis statement allows you to better \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and develop your argument.
* It provides your reader with a “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” to your argument.
* **It’s the one sentence that tells the reader what the whole paper is about.**

What is it, Mr. E?

* A thesis statement presents your **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** or thoughts on a subject or an issue. You cannot write an essay without one.
* A thesis statement must contain a **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** + an opinion
* A thesis statement **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**the topic question/prompt

What Makes it good, Mr. E:

* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**: it should be no longer than **one** sentence, regardless of essay length.
* Limited to one **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** idea
* Does not use loaded language (emotionally charged language).
* A **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** sentence with no **qualifiers**
  + Might, maybe, perhaps, etc.

A thesis statement should **NEVER** contain the following:

* ***in my \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***
* ***I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***
* ***I believe***

Don’ts

* In my opinion, I think, I believe, etc.
* Maybe, might, perhaps, etc.
* This essay will be about…
* A question

Do’s

* Subject + your opinion
* One main idea
* Addresses prompt
* Declarative
* One sentence
* Last sentence of intro. paragraph

What, How, or Why

* If your reader ever has to ask \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, how, or why after reading your thesis statement, then you will have to\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it.

Bad Examples

* Many people object to today’s violent horror movies.

*(Why? What do they object to? Why should we care?)*

* Shakespeare’s Midsummer’s Night Dream is his greatest play because it is so complicated.

*(How is it complicated? Why does that make it so great?)*

Good Example

* With a rich history that promotes a commitment to excellence, the Oakland Raiders are the greatest NFL team of all time.

Examples for the Crucible essay

* Due to the mindset change of Salem and eventually the province of Massachusetts, John Proctor’s decision to be hanged was a heroic decision that left a positive impact on society.

Or

* John Proctor’s heroic decision to be hanged changed the mindset of a broken Salem and left an everlasting impact on society.
  + **What:** John Proctor made the correct decision to be hanged.
  + **Why:** Left an everlasting impact on society.
  + **How:** Changed the mindset of the people