



EIGHT QUALITIES OF A GOOD THESIS STATEMENT

IS YOUR THESIS STATEMENT:

1. **SPECIFIC?** Do not make your thesis statement so general that it doesn't mean very much. Avoid ambiguous or vague words (e.g. "thing") and sweeping claims (e.g. "there are many similarities and differences).
2. **CLEAR?** You know what your thesis means, but will someone else? Try reading it to a friend and see whether he/she knows what you are getting at.
3. **UNIFIED?** Do you list several points without showing their connection? A good thesis makes one strong point, not many unrelated ones.
4. **BRIEF?** A thesis statement should be one or two sentences in length. If it is longer than that, you are trying to say too much. You do not have to list all your up-coming arguments in your thesis statement.
5. **VISIBLE?** Is your thesis hidden away where your reader may not see it? Usually, but not always, your thesis will be at the beginning or end of your introductory paragraph.
6. **ARGUMENTATIVE?** A thesis statement presents an argument; it does not restate the topic. You should make an assertion which you then attempt to prove in the body of your essay. You can tell that your thesis is argumentative if it is debatable – that is, if you can think of a counter-argument.
7. **RELEVANT?** Is your thesis on topic? Does it accurately capture what you argue in your essay? If you revise the body of your essay, be certain your thesis still fits.
8. **INTERESTING?** Will your reader want to read the rest of your essay? Do you make your argument sound important?