**Thesis Statements/Claim**

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**A thesis statement must address all required elements of the prompt.**

* *Read and reread your assigned prompt to make sure you understand all components of that prompt.*
* *There are often sentence frames your teacher can offer you to help structure your thesis statement. Check with your teacher regarding this construction.*

**A thesis statement must be opinionated and arguable.**

* *If your thesis simply states facts that no one would, or even could, disagree with, it is possible that you are simply providing a summary of facts, rather than making an argument. If you cannot argue against it, you will not be able to argue for it.*
* *If you do not have an opinion about your topic, you likely do not have a deep-enough understanding, so you will need to read and write your way to the point where you develop an opinion on the subject matter.*

**A thesis must express a specific and logical understanding of the subject matter.**

* *Thesis statements that are too vague often do not have a strong argument.*
* *If your thesis contains words like "good" or "important," see if you can be more specific. Why is something "good”? What specifically makes something "important"?*
* *If your thesis statement uses words like how, why, or what it lacks specificity. It is your responsibility to state what and explain how and why.*
* *A vague thesis makes your essay much harder (and even impossible) to argue.*
* *The writer must express a logical relationship between the ideas and information presented in a thesis statement. This will likely require the use of complex sentence structure.*

**A thesis must pass the "So what?" test.**

* *State your thesis and then ask yourself, “So what?” What’s so important about that claim? Why might it matter to someone else?*
* *To pass the “So what?” test your thesis must present an opinion that is meaningful, and reflects an original point of view to which others may relate and find interesting and valuable.*