***WRITING A THESIS:***

* A thesis is a statement that clearly shows your argument towards a **TOPIC**.

-**TOPIC:** What the essay is about. **THESIS:** Writer’s argument about the topic.

-Essays convince readers about the author’s argument so a thesis statement has to be strong.

* Some rules about thesis statements:

1. It must be expressed as a full and complete sentence.
2. It cannot be in the form of a question.
3. Don’t use statements like “I think” – it makes the thesis sound weak.
4. A thesis must be written clearly and specifically.
5. Don’t announce your topic – make a statement that shows your argument.
6. Find a focus. Broad essays have too much to talk about.

* An ideal thesis will be neither too broad (focuses on too much) nor too narrow (focuses on too little) for the essay. One of the most common problems with essays is that they are based on a thesis that is too obvious to be worth arguing--a ***truism***. This means you are stating the obvious. Here are some examples of possible theses:

1. ***TOPIC:***

How commercials manipulate their audience

***A TRUISUM (BAD NEWS!):***

Television Commercials attempt to sell their products to the largest possible audience.

***TOO BROAD (COVERS WAY TOO MUCH):***

Several tactics are used to entice consumers to buy the advertised product.

*(This thesis is likely to produce an essay that is simply a shopping list of examples, dull both for the writer and reader.)*

***IDEAL THESIS:***

*Teenagers are positively affected by exciting and humorous commercials that sell video games.*

1. ***TOPIC:***

Inner City Life

***A SIMPLE STATEMENT (DON’T “TELL” YOUR READERS!):***

This essay will examine life in the inner city.

***An ideal thesis:***Inner-city life has led to issues such as poverty, gang violence, and drugs, which has caused cities to collapse as those who can run to the suburbs.