

## The Thesis Tests

1. Is this a complete sentence (and not a question)?
  2. Does it have an opposing argument?
  2. Is every word clear and unambiguous in meaning?
  3. Is the sentence a dead end, or does it call for additional information and explanation?
  4. Does the statement make such a large claim that you believe the writer has no hope of proving it to be true in the space of 4 to 6 pages?
  5. What evidence will you need to see before you will believe that the thesis is true?
- 

## Ask yourself:

- Does the thesis:
  - Take a stand
  - Evaluate something
  - State its position clearly and exactly
- Is the thesis:
  - Arguable (or will people say “duh, of course that’s true”?)
  - Stated positively, i.e. is it a statement rather than a question
  - Sufficiently limited for a 4-6 page paper (i.e. not so broad that you’ll need to write a book in order to cover everything)