What is a **Thesis Statement**?

The **thesis** is the central idea of your paper. The **thesis statement** is the sentence or sentences that assert the central idea of your paper. A thesis is *not* the same thing as the topic of your paper. Simply put, a topic is what your paper is about; the thesis is what you have to say about the topic.

**A strong thesis statement:**

* *Fits the purpose of the assignment.*
* *Makes a specific point about the topic and gives readers a sense of the direction of your paper.*
* *Say something significant that could change what the reader knows, understands or believes about the topic.*

**TYPE THESIS STATEMENTS**

**Thesis to inform**

In recent years, the National Football League has become increasingly concerned with the long term effects of brain injury caused by repeated violent collisions on the field of play.

**Thesis to interpret**

NFL owners continue to pay lip-service to the idea of player safety, but their demand on the Players’ Association to increase the season to eighteen games shows they are far more interested in profits than safety.

**Thesis to argue**

By taking a hard line stance against the owners’ demands now--even at the risk of angering the fans--the NFL Players’ Association will protect its members’ interests, and the league itself, in the long run.

**Examples of weak thesis statements**

Announcement:

 *I will discuss the NFL’s labor problems.*

Statement of fact:

 *The owners and players cannot agree.*

General Observation:

*The owners are more prepared for a work stoppage than the players.*

**SAMPLE THESIS STATEMENTS**

* Even though Assad could take action against us, the U.S needs to intervene and aid Syria because the revolution has had a negative impact on the country as well as on its people.
* If we don’t help Syria the situation will become even worse than it is at the moment and we would be affected.
* In recent years, the National Football League has become increasingly concerned with the long term effects of brain injury caused by repeated violent collisions on the field of play.
* NFL owners continue to pay lip-service to the idea of player safety, but their demand on the Players’ Association to increase the season to eighteen games shows they are far more interested in profits than safety.
* Colleges and Universities need to find a way to fairly compensate their athletes for their talents, and that the athletes deserve a share of the revenue which they bring into the university.
* Child abuse laws in this state are too lenient for repeat offenders.
* Throughout history, dogs have proven to be effective in fighting crime.
* Students should be allowed to carry cell phones at school because they provide students more security, they can be used in emergencies, and they keep parents involved in their children’s school lives.
* Cell phones should not be allowed at school because of their potential to distract students, to lead to thefts, and to be used for cheating.
* Schools should think of inventive ways to incorporate cell phones into modern education because students’ success in the future will depend on their ability to use technology for creative and productive purposes.
* Cell phones do more harm than good; it has served to **damage people’s written communication skills and increase the likelihood of traffic accidents.**
* Antibiotics can be extremely bad for you because when you take them they attack the good and bacteria in your body and the bacteria that are left over can become stronger and cause serious problems.
* Antibiotics have played a major role in our society; without it, many lives would be in danger due to infectious diseases.