THESIS STATEMENTS
Thesis Statement


◦ It states the essay's subject -- the topic that you are discussing.
◦ It reflects the essay's purpose -- either to give your readers information or to persuade your readers to agree with you.
◦ It includes a focus -- your assertion that conveys your point of view.
◦ It uses specific language -- avoids vague words and generalizations.
◦ It may (but doesn't have to) state the major subdivisions of the essay's topic.
Argumentative Thesis Statements

“An argumentative paper makes a claim about a topic and justifies this claim with specific evidence. The claim could be an opinion, a policy proposal, an evaluation, a cause-and-effect statement, or an interpretation. The goal of the argumentative paper is to convince the audience that the claim is true based on the evidence provided.” (Purdue OWL)
Thesis Examples (From Steener)

- “Last year saw a decrease in the number of "bad girl" roles in Hollywood.”
  - Poor Thesis—just states a fact.
  - Revised:
    - “The decrease in 'bad girl' roles witnessed in 1998 reflects the conservative backlash against strong female characters in the media.”

- “Instant replay should be banned from the NFL because it allows you to watch plays again once they have been completed”
  - Poor Thesis—It is an argument, but not a logical one. The argument is circular: “No replay because it’s replay.”
  - Revised:
    - “Instant replay should be banned from the NFL because once a play has been completed or a call has been made, it should not be revisited or reevaluated by nit-picking referees.

- “Although some people approve of V-chip technology, others don't.”
  - Poor Thesis—Doesn’t take a stand or add anything new. You need to take a (little bit) of a risk and make specific statements about your subject.
  - Revised:
    - “Because too many children are stumbling upon sex sites on the web, all pornographic materials should be banned from the internet.”