Thesis Statements

A good thesis
- Is a statement of your topic
- Indicates what you want to say about it by including your argument or opinion
- Tells your readers specific points they can expect to learn from your paper

Examples of good thesis statements
- UHMC students (topic) make good friends (your opinion) because they are sociable, loyal, and generous (specific points you will discuss).

- Steelmaking (topic) is a complex process (argument) that involves purifying, smelting, cooling, and refining (specific points).

Poor thesis statements
- America bombed Hiroshima in 1945 (statement of fact).
- Radiation can be dangerous (too vague and general).
- The Temple of Doom is the worst book ever written (a matter of taste, no support given).
- This paper is about irradiated food (this is a topic, but gives no sense of direction—what will the paper claim about irradiated food?).

What will a thesis do for the writer?
- Identifies the main point
- Keeps the paper focused
- Gives a roadmap for the paper
- Acts like a filter for non-essential information
- Gives you something to conclude

What does a thesis do for a reader?
- Identifies the topic
- Clarifies the thread that unifies the points of discussion
- Invites reading
- Gives a purpose for the article