Thesis Statements/Sentences

Functions of the Thesis Sentence

- It narrows the topic to a single, central idea that you want readers to gain from your essay.
- It names the topic and asserts something specific and significant about it.
- It often provides a concise preview of how you will arrange your ideas in the essay.

To Draft a Thesis Sentence

Ask yourself the following questions:

- What conclusion can I draw from the work I have done so far?
- How can I express that idea by naming the topic and making an assertion about it?
- How can I convey my purpose in that assertion?

Checklist for Revising the Thesis Sentence

- Does the sentence make an assertion about your topic?
- Is the assertion limited to only one idea?
- Is the assertion specific and significant?
- Does the sentence convey your purpose?
- Is the sentence unified so that the parts relate to each other?

Revised Thesis Statements

1. *Faulty Original*--This new product brought in over $300,000 last year. [A statement of fact, not an assertion: what is significant about the product's success?]

   *Revised*--This new product succeeded because of its innovative marketing campaign, including wide-spread press coverage, in-store entertainment, and a consumer newsletter.

2. *Faulty Original*--People would not go on fad diets. [A vague statement that needs limiting with one or more reasons: what's wrong with fad diets?]

   *Revised*--Fad diets can be dangerous when they deprive the body of essential nutrients or rely on excessive quantities of potentially harmful foods.
3. **Faulty Original**—Televised sports are different from live sports. [*A general statement:* how are they different, and why is the difference significant?]

   *Revised*—Although television cannot transmit all the excitement of a live game, its close-ups and slow-motion replays more than compensate.

4. **Faulty Original**—Seat belts can save lives, but now car makers are installing air bags. [*Not unified:* how do the two parts of the sentence relate?]

   *Revised*—If drivers had used lifesaving seat belts more often, car makers might not have needed to install air bags.

**Evaluate the following:**

1. Aggression usually leads to violence, injury, and even death, and we should use it constructively.

2. Gun control is essential.

3. One evening of radio talk show amply illustrates both the appeal of such shows and their silliness.

4. The poem is about motherhood.