Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Writing your Thesis Statement/Claim*

What is a **thesis statement**?

- It is a complete sentence with a subject and a commentary

- It is opinion-based and debatable

- It must take a position and be supportable (with research/evidence)

- It states the topic of your paper

- It is specific

- It is usually the last sentence in your introduction

1. Using your brainstorming worksheet, write a belief statement about the topic you have chosen and underline the subject:

**Example**: I believe that that rainforests should not be destroyed.

2. Next add a fact/commentary to the belief statement. Underline the subject once and the fact/commentary twice:

**Example**: I believe that rainforests should not be destroyed because they are complex living systems that contribute to the balance of life on this planet.

3. Take yourself out by eliminating “I believe” and you will be left with your thesis:

**Example**: Rainforests should not be destroyed because they are complex living systems that contribute to the balance of life on this planet.

4. Test your thesis:

Is your thesis an opinion? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Is it debatable? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Is it specific? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Is it a complete sentence? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Can you support it with evidence? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Understanding Thesis Statements*

See how a writer starts with a BIG topic and can narrow it to make a thesis statement.

**Subject** Rainforests

**Topic** The importance of rainforests

**Research Question** What is the importance of rainforests?

**Thesis** Rain forests provide the human race with many resources.

*Examples and Non-Examples of Theses*

A thesis statement is specific, not general:

**Specific Thesis Statements**

Hemingway’s war stories helped create a new prose style.

The courts need to hand out stiffer sentences to criminals.

**General Thesis Statements**

Hemingway’s war stories are very good.

Crime must be stopped.

A thesis statement is not a title:

**Not Titles**

In recent years, baseball has experienced a decline in popularity.

Parents need to participate more in the education of their children.

**Titles**

The Decline of Baseball

Home and Schools

A thesis statement is not an announcement:

**Not an Announcement**

The space program is a waste of money.

Solving America’s environmental problems is more difficult than many believe.

**Announcement**

I want to share some thoughts with you about the space program.

The thesis of this paper is the difficulty of solving America’s environmental problems.

A thesis statement is not a statement of absolute fact:

**Facts**

Jane Austen is the author of *Pride and Prejudice*.

Suicide is the deliberate taking of one’s own life.

This statement cannot be argued, not a good thesis.

This statement cannot be argued, not a good thesis.