WHAT IS A THESIS?

A thesis statement is a sentence or two that captures the main idea or message in your paper. A thesis acts as a mini summary of your paper, explaining your position and what evidence you are offering to support that position.

PARTS OF A THESIS

- Focused, not broad
  - ex. Seattleites love coffee.
- Debatable (an opinion, not a fact)
  - ex. Starbucks has the best coffee.
- Chooses a stance/side similar to debatable
  - ex. similar to debatable
- Makes a claim (the thesis)
  - ex. Starbucks has the best coffee because they have so many drink options and different flavor roasts.

WORKING THESIS

Having trouble deciding what your thesis will be? Start with a working thesis. This is structured like a normal thesis statement but is more flexible and broad. This gives it flexibility, so it can change depending on the direction your paper takes. In the meantime, it acts as a guide for your writing.

EXAMPLES OF THESES

- I like coffee because of the flavor.
- Single-origin blonde roast coffee is superior to other coffees because it has a higher level of caffeine than traditional roasts and has a smoother flavor.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESIS STATEMENTS VISIT SEATTLEU.EDU/WRITINGCENTER/RESOURCES OR COME INTO THE CENTER FOR AN APPOINTMENT.