Writing an Effective Thesis Statement

Answer the Prompt
- Make sure your thesis statement answers the question in the prompt!
- Restate the prompt's question in your answer

Move Beyond "Yes" or "No"
- Your thesis should answer how and why
- Utilize "because" to link your specific claim to a specific reason

Provide a Road Map
- Give readers a sense of how you'll develop your claim throughout the essay
- Make sure your thesis addresses "so what?" (why should readers care about this? how is it relevant to them?)

Make it Arguable
- Readers should be able to disagree with your claim if they want to
- If readers cannot disagree with your claim, it's a fact, and you'll want to revise it

For More Guidance:
If you want more guidance on developing an effective thesis statement, check out this handout!
## KEY TAKEAWAYS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Your thesis should...</th>
<th>Your thesis should not...</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Answer the prompt’s question</td>
<td>Offer a factual statement (unless you’re writing a report)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Move beyond a simple &quot;yes&quot; or &quot;no&quot; answer</td>
<td>Be vague or ambiguous</td>
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<tr>
<td>Use &quot;because&quot; or another linking word to show reasoning</td>
<td>Offer a claim without specific reasoning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Show readers how you’ll develop your claim</td>
<td>Go off topic</td>
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