

## **Thesis Statements**

Just as every house needs a strong foundation on which to build, so does every essay. That foundation or focus is usually summed up in one complete sentence. We call a statement that sums up the underlying main idea of an entire piece of writing a thesis statement.

The following is a basic strategy that can be applied to develop a strong thesis statement:

1. Write down on a piece of paper the overall topic you wish to discuss.
2. Narrow your topic if necessary.
3. Ask yourself, “What do I want my readers to know about my topic?” Write that answer down
4. Take the notes you wrote down and form one complete sentence.
5. Ask yourself, “What is the purpose of my essay? To inform? To persuade? To define? To evaluate?” Write the answer down.
6. Adjust the wording of your sentence to reflect your purpose.

