**Thesis Statements**

A good thesis statement:

* + Goes beyond the obvious
  + Is persuasive
  + Takes a stand on one side of the topic
  + Is specific and focused; expresses one main idea
  + Asserts the author’s conclusion based on the evidence to follow
  + Provides the reader with a roadmap
  + Avoids vague, 1st-person or 2nd-person language
  + Avoids listing out “3 ways”
  + Is the last sentence of your introduction
  + Is one sentence long

Parts of a beginner’s thesis statement:

* Work
* Author
* What the author shows
* How they show it

***The Scarlet Letter* - Literary Analysis**

**Do:**

* Support your thesis with direct quotes from the text
  + Generally speaking, 1 quote or example will be insufficient from here on
* Embed all Quotes
  + Lead into or end your sentences with your own words (quotes can never stand alone)
    - This provides CONTEXT for your quote
* Cite your page numbers
* Offer *explanations* for your assertions
* Write in the present tense
  + i.e. – “The author shows that…” / NOT – “The author showed that…”
  + i.e. – “Hester is forced to wear a scarlet letter.” / NOT – “Hester was forced to wear a scarlet letter.”
* Reread your essay for clarity, grammar, spelling, etc.

**Phrases to Avoid Now and Forevermore:**

* I think…
* I believe…
* The theme of…
* In the text it says…
* In conclusion…
* On page…
* A lot of…
* The author does a good job of…
* This quote shows…
* This is important because…
* The author says…

**Also, Do Not:**

* Refer to the author by their first name
* Use excessive adjectives
* Use 1st or 2nd person
* Use rhetorical questions (generally speaking)