Thesis Statement Development

<u>Outline for 5 paragraph essay</u>

Opening paragraph including **thesis.** A thesis is a sentence or two that answers your question. It is what you are proving in your essay. Opening paragraph gives you a background for the question and builds to your thesis.

What is a thesis statement?

A thesis statement:
- Tells the reader how you will interpret the significance of the subject matter under discussion.
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- Is a road map for the paper; in other words, it tells the reader what to expect from the rest of the paper.
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- Directly answers the question asked of you. A thesis is an interpretation of a question or subject, not the subject itself. The subject, or topic, of an essay might be World War II or Moby Dick; a thesis must then offer a way to understand the war or the novel.
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- Makes a claim that others might dispute.
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- Is usually a single sentence somewhere in your first paragraph that presents your argument to the reader. The rest of the paper, the body of the essay, gathers and organizes evidence that will persuade the reader of the logic of your interpretation.

How to Generate a Thesis Statement if the Topic is Assigned.

Almost all assignments, no matter how complicated, can be reduced to a single question. Your first step, then, is to distill the assignment into a specific question. For example, if your assignment is, "Write a report to the local school board explaining the potential benefits of using computers in a fourth-grade class," turn the request into a question like, "What are the potential benefits of using computers in a fourth-grade class?" After you've chosen the question your essay will answer, compose one or two complete sentences answering that question.

Q: "What are the potential benefits of using computers in a fourth-grade class?"

A: "The potential benefits of using computers in a fourth-grade class are . . ."
<div align="center">***OR***</div>
A: "Using computers in a fourth-grade class promises to improve . . ."
The answer to the question is the thesis statement for the essay.

I. Make three points that prove your thesis.
e.g. explain three ways that "The Lovesong of J. Alfred Prufrock" and <u>The Red Turtle</u> are similar

    A. Use two **specific** examples that that prove point
    B. Second example that proves your point

II. Another point that proves thesis
    A. A specific example from text
    B. Another specific example from text

III. Last point that proves thesis

    A. A specific example from text
    B.Another specific example from text