QUICK THESIS GUIDE

FOCUS QUESTION AND THESIS STATEMENT

- Good research begins with a **FOCUS QUESTION**.
- The **THESIS STATEMENT** should be a clear, concise answer to that focus question.

**Focus Question:** Why are scientists concerned about global warming?

**Thesis Statement:** Global warming is causing a change in the earth's weather patterns that will have disastrous effects.

**Focus Question:** What effect did the Crusades have on Europe?

**Thesis Statement:** The Crusades directly contributed to the rising influence of the Catholic Church in Europe.

**Focus Question:** Can the novels *Huckleberry Finn* and *Catcher in the Rye* be compared?

**Thesis Statement:** The novels *Huckleberry Finn* and *Catcher in the Rye* have main characters who experience a rite of passage from adolescence to adulthood.

NOT A THESIS STATEMENT

**RULE 1:** A topic by itself cannot serve as a thesis statement.
- Not a Thesis Statement: This paper will discuss the concerns scientists have about global warming.

**RULE 2:** A question cannot serve as a thesis statement.
- Not a Thesis Statement: What problems are associated with global warming?

**RULE 3:** A general statement without a point of view cannot serve as a thesis statement.
- Not a Thesis Statement: Much has been written about global warming.

IS A THESIS STATEMENT

**RULE 1:** A complete sentence summarizing the point of view in your paper.

**RULE 2:** A specific statement of the main idea.

**RULE 3:** A statement reflecting the position taken in your paper.