

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.