Neti Gupta - Spring 2015, **Thesis Sentences**

I. What is a thesis sentence? A thesis sentence is the last sentence of the introductory paragraph that contains the focus of your essay and tells your reader what the essay is going to be about.

II. How do I know if my thesis sentence is strong?

1. Is my sentence specific?
2. Do I answer my research question?
3. Have I taken a position/Am I making an argument?
4. Am I using conjunctions such as “therefore”, “although”, “moreover”

III. Practice

1. Taking a position on an argument

Original thesis: Socialism is the best form of government for Kenya.

Revised thesis: If the government takes over industry in Kenya, the industry will become more efficient.

2. Avoid making universal judgments

Original thesis: We must save the whales.

Revised thesis: Because our planet's health may depend upon biological diversity, we should save the whales.

3. Say more than just the facts

Original thesis: Hoover's administration was rocked by scandal.

Revised thesis: The many scandals of Hoover's administration revealed basic problems with the Republican Party's nominating process.

Resources used

https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/545/01/

<http://www.cws.illinois.edu/workshop/writers/tips/thesis/>

<http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/thesis-statements/>