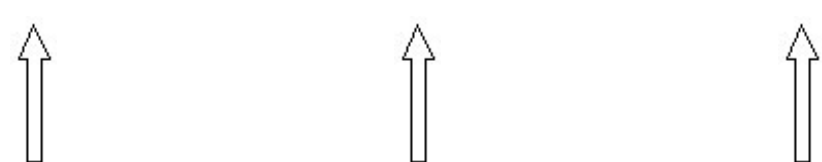


# THESIS STATEMENTS

## What is a thesis statement?

A good essay will argue a point of view. The argument of the paper is summed up in one sentence, called the thesis statement. The thesis statement should work as a one line summary of what the paper will be arguing, and is usually presented in two parts: the topic, and then the point of view that you will be arguing concerning that topic. This is presented in the introduction, and is usually the last sentence of the paragraph.

Often, students forget to include the second part of the thesis statement, which is the point of view, or, the argument, and they just present the topic. Think of the thesis statement as an algebraic equation:

$$a + b = c$$


The first "unknown" is the TOPIC. What will you be talking about in your essay?

The second "unknown" is the POINT OF VIEW, or the ARGUMENT. What will you be saying about your topic?

The "sum" of these two parts becomes a complete THESIS STATEMENT. If you are missing "a" or "b," then you do not have a complete thesis statement.

**NO**      **Missing the Topic ("a")**  
Solving problems is difficult.

**NO**      **Missing the Argument ("b")**  
There are many environmental problems.

**YES**      **(TOPIC)**      **(ARGUMENT)**  
Solving Montreal's environmental problems is more difficult than many environmentalists believe.

