Name: _____

Miss Crossley

___ LA Period: _____

Date: _____

How to Write a Good Thesis Statement

The thesis is truly the heart and soul of any research paper. It states what the paper is about and gives the reader an idea of what information will follow.

The thesis is an idea, opinion, or conclusion about your topic, is proven by your research, and is the last sentence of your introduction.
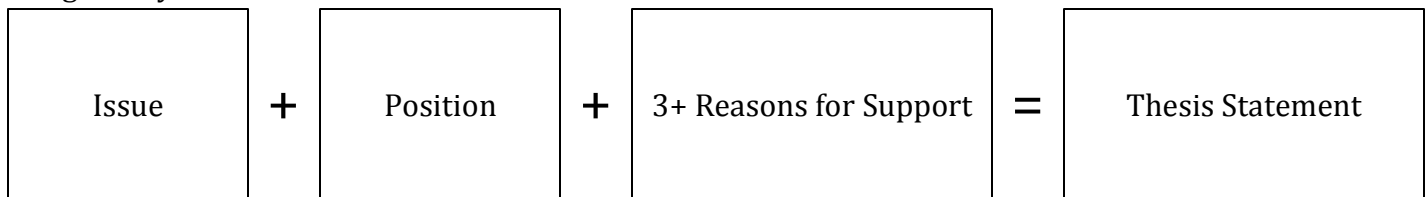
A good thesis **IS**:
- A statement made in one well-developed sentence
- Clear and to the point
- Based on information you find in your reading and prove with your research
- Specific and focuses on information that can be explored in a 2-3 page paper
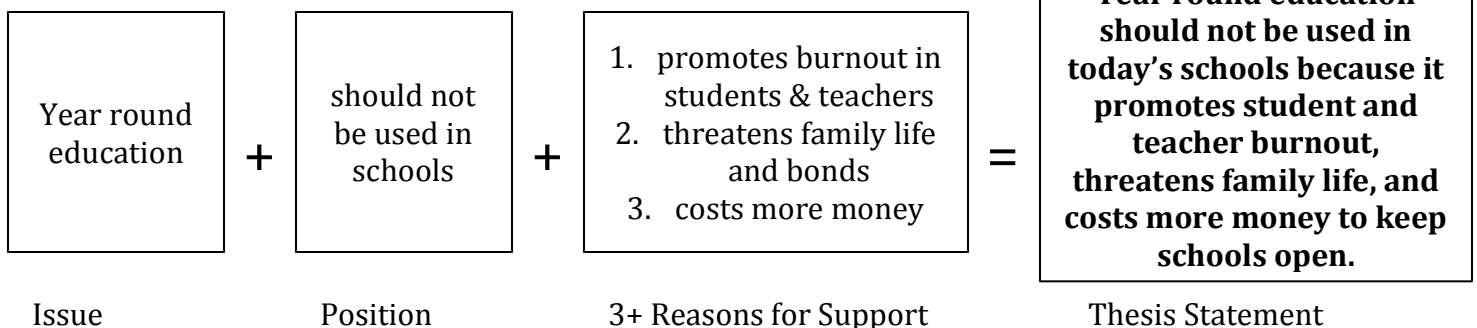
A good thesis is **NOT**:
- A question (Did you know that global warming is a real problem?)
- An "I" statement (I learned that global warming is a problem in our world that must be addressed.)
- Vague and wandering (Global warming is a threat to everyone.)
- Overly obvious (Global warming has been in the news a lot lately.)
- Overly general (Global warming exists in our world.)
- Emotional (Global warming must be stopped or we will all die!)

What does a good thesis look like for a research paper?

Since you will be writing about an issue and taking a side/position (supported by details from your research, of course) on that particular issue, you can use the following graphic to help you plan and organize your thesis statement:

| Issue | **+** | Position | **+** | 3+ Reasons for Support | **=** | Thesis Statement |

Let's try an example:

| Year round education | **+** | should not be used in schools | **+** | 1. promotes burnout in students & teachers 2. threatens family life and bonds 3. costs more money | **=** | **Year round education should not be used in today's schools because it promotes student and teacher burnout, threatens family life, and costs more money to keep schools open.** |

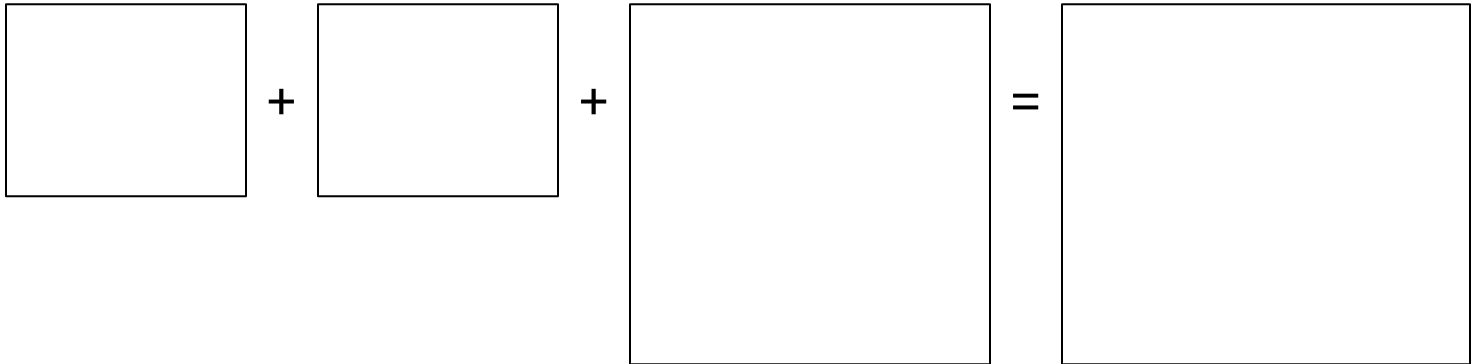| Issue | Position | 3+ Reasons for Support | Thesis Statement |

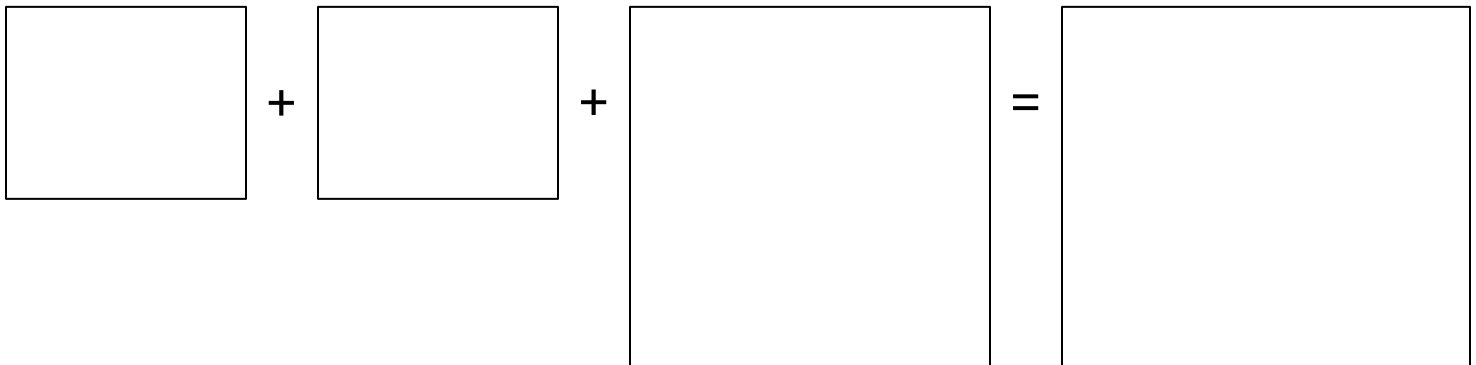This is an example of a <u>strong thesis statement</u>:

Year round education should not be used in today's schools because it promotes student and teacher
   (Issue)   *(Opinion/Your Position)*   *(1st reason for support)*
burnout, threatens our family life, costs more money to keep schools running all year, and is not proven
   (2nd reason for support)   *(3rd reason for support)*
to increase academics as is claimed by its supporters.
   (4th reason for support)

Now, apply the graphic organizer to the following thesis statement:
1. School uniforms should become policy in public schools because they are less costly to families, promote unity among students, and offer a better atmosphere for learning.

<table>
<tr><td> </td><td>**+**</td><td> </td><td>**+**</td><td> </td><td>**=**</td><td> </td></tr>
</table>

Next, try filling in the graphic organizer for your issue as the first step in creating your thesis statement:

<table>
<tr><td> </td><td>**+**</td><td> </td><td>**+**</td><td> </td><td>**=**</td><td> </td></tr>
</table>

Use the information in your graphic organizer to write a final thesis statement in the space provided below. Remember the thesis statement will act like the topic sentence for your entire research project. Be sure to follow the guidelines for writing a thesis statement.

Thesis Statement:

_____

_____

_____

_____