



An introduction:

- Should give the bigger picture about the topic.
- Should grab the reader's attention.
- Should clearly show readers why the topic is important.
- Should include a thesis that is neither too broad nor too general.

A thesis:

- Should be focused.
- Should be supported with evidence in the body of the essay.
- Should avoid vague words such as interesting, good, or bad.
- Should typically be the last sentence of your introduction.
- Should be part of an ongoing writing process. Revisions are almost always necessary.

Tips for creating an effective thesis:

- Decide what question you are trying to answer in the paper. Write the question down.
- Readers should be able to disagree with your thesis statement. A thesis should be arguable, but remember to support your claim.
- A thesis should not simply declare something obvious. For example, "It is cold in Utica, NY during January" would not be an effective thesis. What is it that you want to say about the cold weather in this location? Answering answering that question *might* lead to an acceptable thesis.
- Your topic might change as you continue working on the paper. Always,
 review the thesis statement after your write new paragraphs.

Website help:

- http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/545/1/
- http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/thesis.html