How to Write a Thesis Statement

If you include:

- A statement of fact or observation
- Or Personal conviction/opinion
- Or a generalization/ broad claim

These are just statements! You’re not proving or arguing anything

Examples of Bad Thesis Statements:

1. “Eating fast food is bad and should be avoided.”
   Too Broad

2. “Second-hand smoke is bad and can cause heart disease and cancer; therefore, smoking should be outlawed in public places, but outlawing smoking is unfair to smokers so maybe non-smokers can just hold their breath or wear masks around smokers instead.”
   Doesn’t take a stance on the topic

3. “There are high numbers of homeless people living in Berkeley, California.”
   Lacks Argument

4. “Humans should relocate to Mars.”
   Lacks a “road-map” of what you are going to talk about
A Good Thesis Statement includes . . .

- Argument
- Includes Counter Argument
- Answers a Why or How question
- Acts as a road map for the reader

A well written thesis that makes your reader interested in your topic!

Examples of Good Thesis Statements:

1. “Americans should eliminate the regular consumption of fast food because a fast food diet leads to preventable and expensive health issues, such as diabetes, obesity, and heart disease.”
   
   Less Broad

2. “Second-hand smoke is just as harmful as smoking and leads to a higher prevalence of cancer and heart disease; therefore, smoking in any public place should be banned.”
   
   Gives a stance on the topic

3. “Homeless people in Berkeley should be given access to services - such as regular food donations, public restrooms, and camping facilities because it would improve life for all inhabitants of the city.”
   
   Provides Argument

4. “It is too late to save earth; therefore, humans should immediately set a date for their relocation to Mars, where they can, with proper planning, avoid issues of famine, war, and global warming.”
   
   Provides a “road-map” of what you are going to talk about