**CRITERIA FOR A GOOD THESIS:**

* A thesis statement should be argumentative (debatable) and function as a one-two sentence --condensation of your paper’s primary claim (or argument).
* Thesis statements are necessary so that readers can identify the point and/or argument of your paper early in the paper.
* A thesis statement also allows you to state the primary reasons behind your paper’s argument early in the paper.
* A thesis statement is not a “duh” statement, such as “The extermination of the Jews was bad.” --A good thesis statement makes an argument that has not been over-discussed.
* A thesis statement should include specific and pointed language as opposed to unclear or unsure wording. Avoid words such as “kind of,” “arguably,” “somewhat,” etc.

\*\*In general, your thesis statement will accomplish the aforementioned goals if you think of the thesis as the answer to the question(s) your paper explores.

Examples of Good and Bad Thesis Statements:

**Bad: Hunger persists in North Africa.**

\*\*This is a poor thesis statement because it does not provide any reasons behind WHY “hunger persists in North Africa.” In addition, this thesis statement gives the reader only a vague idea of what the paper is going to argue.

**Good: Hunger persists in North Africa because jobs are scarce, and farming in the infertile soil of the region is rarely profitable.**

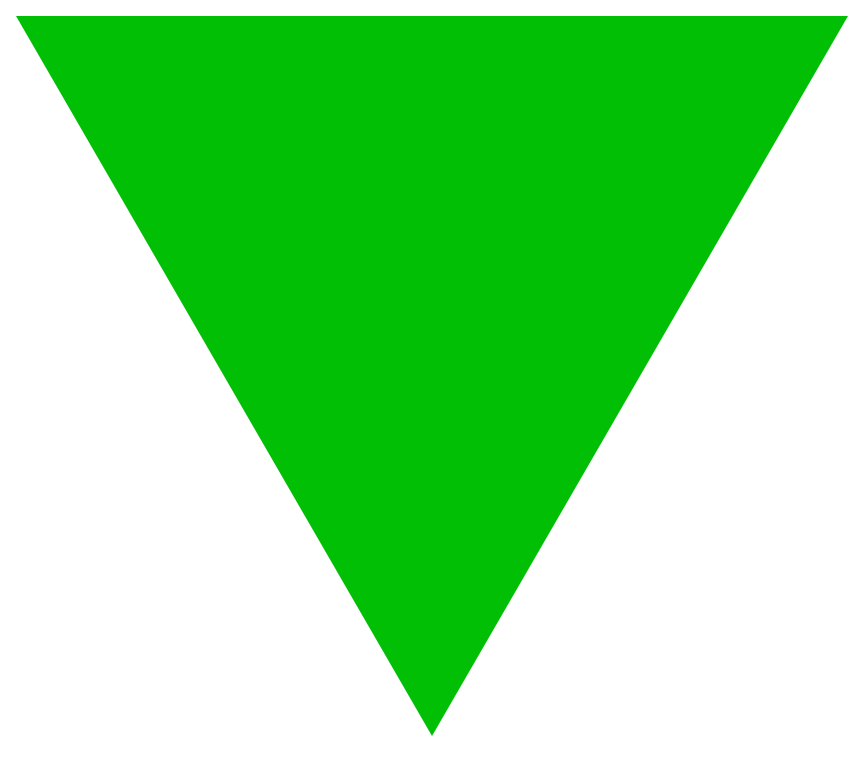
\*\*This is a strong thesis statement because it narrows the subject to a more specific and manageable topic and identifies the specific causes for the existence of hunger.

**Bad: The concept of global warming should not receive the amount of attention that is currently focused on this issue.**

\*\*This is a poor thesis statement because it is solely based on opinion. A thesis statement needs to be backed up by factual reasoning.

**Good: The concept of global warming should not receive the amount of attention that is currently focused on this issue because the earth constantly goes through spells of warming and cooling; the increasing temperature of the earth is but a part of this natural cycle and out of human control.**

\*\*This is a good thesis statement because it clearly states the writer’s argument WITHOUT jumping right into statistics, etc., that should be revealed in the body of the paper.

THINK ABOUT YOUR INTRO AS AN UPSIDE DOWN TRIANGLE!

Broad: Set the context by reviewing the topic in a general way

Narrow it down a little more: Explain why the topic is important or why reader should care about the topic (opposing claim)

Be concise with what you are prove = Thesis:

Clearly state your position and identify the specific areas of argument you will discuss

Example Intro:

The Olympic Games are well known tradition that started during the Roman times. Happening every four years, people come from all over the world to compete in variety of sports to show pride in one’s country. Not only do people compete, but millions and millions of people tune in to cheer on their country. Even though hosting the Olympics would put a financial strain on an already depressed economy, there is a strong argument that the United States should bid to host the Olympics because it would help improve the host city’s infrastructure, increase temporary employment opportunities, and promote acceptance of different cultures and traditions.

Thesis - Fill in the blank:

Although some many argue that John Proctor is/is not a tragic hero because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, there is substantial evidence to support that John Proctor is/is not a tragic hero because he (does not) possess the qualities of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.