**Writing a Thesis Statement**

**What is it?**

A thesis statement is a strong statement that you can prove with evidence. It is not a simple statement of fact. The main purpose of a thesis statement is to help a reader identify the main idea of an essay.

A thesis statement should be a product of your own critical thinking *after* you have done some research. It can also be thought of as the *angle* or *point of view* from which you present your material.

**Elements of a Thesis Statement:**

* Well-written – uses formal language and does not contain slang or “I”.
* Should not start with “This essay is going to be about…”
* States your argument – your argument is the answer to your question. For example, if your question is: Should the government make money off of gambling casinos?, your thesis would be your answer to that question (i.e. Due to the fact that gambling can lead to addiction, it is not morally right for the government to make money off of casinos.)

**Thesis statements from our mentor texts:**

* Highly successful athletes reach the professional level through a combination of genetics, opportunity, and hard work.
* Many factors have contributed to the decline of the Atlantic salmon population, including commercial fishery, overpopulation of predator fish, and climate change.
* Clearcutting, predators, and climate change are the leading contributors to the decline of the deer population in New Brunswick.

**Remember to think of it as an answer to a question:**

* *Why is the Atlantic salmon population down?*
* (Answer/Thesis): Many factors have contributed to the decline of the Atlantic salmon population, including commercial fishery, overpopulation of predator fish, and climate change.

**Here is my thesis statement:**

* *What are the effects of toys being marketed by gender?*
* (Answer/Thesis): The trend of gender marketing, creating toys specifically for boys or girls, has increased toy sales, but has narrowly defined gender for children, harming their personal growth and self-image.