

Adapted from
netStartClassv4.0

	Excellent (A) 4 points	Proficient (B) 3 points	Adequate (C) 2 points
Declarative Sentence	The thesis statement is in the form of a declarative sentence that clearly and concisely states the main point that the author is trying to make. Establishes focus that clearly directs the body of the essay.	The thesis statement is in the form of a declarative sentence and makes a point, but is a bit too broad. Establishes the topic or stance that adequately directs the body of the essay	The thesis statement is in the form of a declarative sentence, but is vague and does not make a concrete point. Contains an unfocused topic that lacks clear direction for the body of the essay.
Scope	The scope of the thesis statement is narrow and refined, and each point raised can be explored thoroughly throughout the essay. There are no exceedingly broad generalizations that confuse the topic at hand.	The scope of the thesis statement is somewhat too broad or narrow. While it provides the points to be examined, they are either too large to sufficiently write on in an essay, or too narrow to provide enough material for an essay.	The scope of the thesis statement is excessively broad or narrow. The statement either over-generalizes, or is so specific that the supporting evidence will be extremely limited.
Effectiveness	The thesis statement proposes an idea that is both supportable and arguable. It avoids clichés, obvious observations, and universally recognized truths.	The thesis statement proposes an idea that is supportable and addresses the importance of the topic, though it only provides a weakly arguable stance.	The thesis statement proposes an idea that vaguely connects to the topic, but fails to establish a stance or focus.

Support	The thesis statement has three strong points that directly support the argument or stance.	The thesis statement has three points intended for support, though not all of them are entirely relevant.	The thesis statement does not have three points for support, or all three points are irrelevant to the stance.
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Total Points:

Poor (D or below) 0 or 1 point	Points
The thesis statement is not in a declarative sentence. Thesis statement inadequately identifies a topic or fails to establish the direction of the essay.	
The thesis statement's scope is totally inappropriate, failing to provide a viable platform on which to build your essay.	
The thesis statement is missing, unrelated to the topic, or cannot be supported with the text.	

The thesis statement makes no attempt to provide support for the stance taken.	