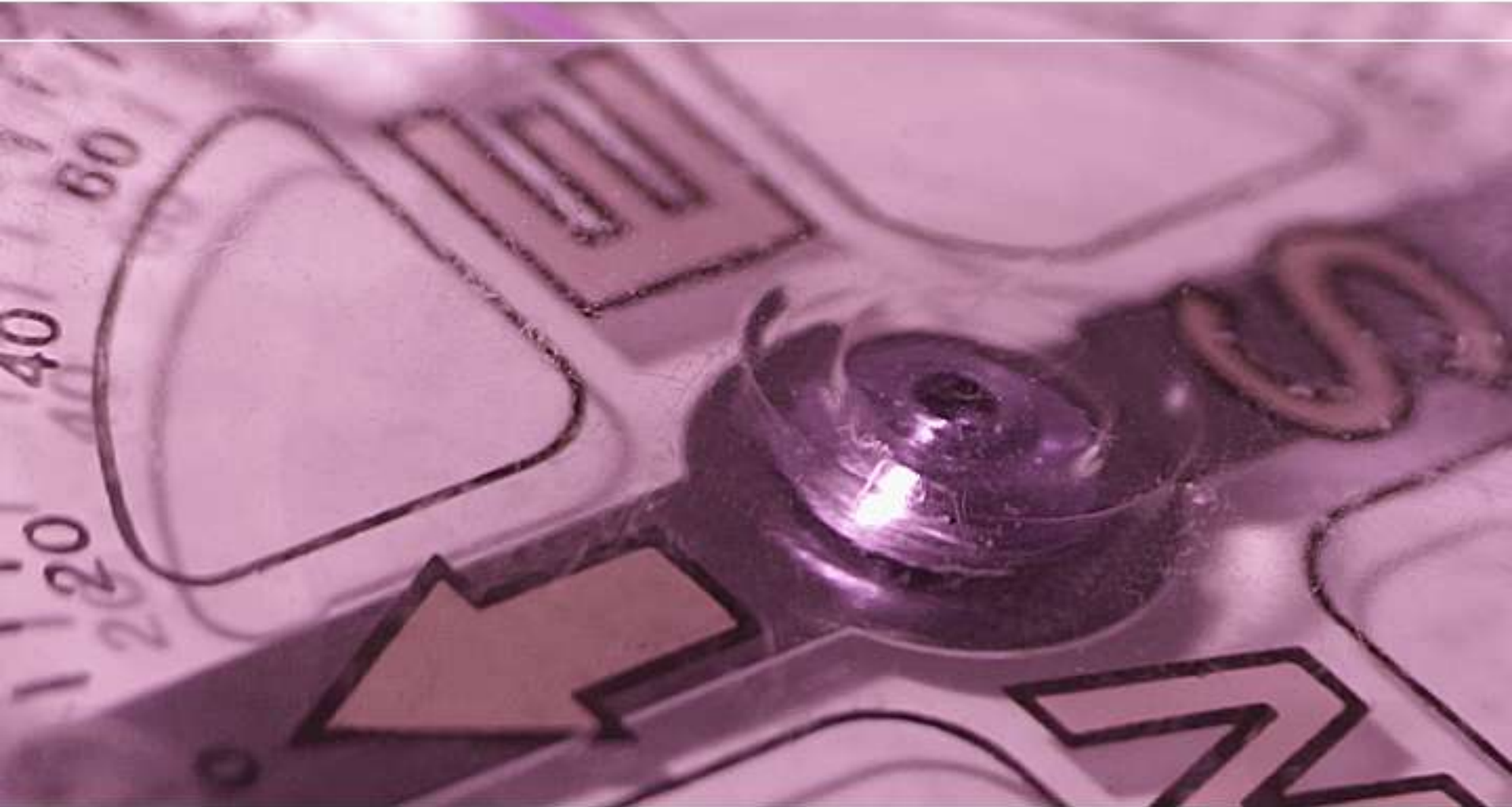


Creating a Thesis Statement



Thesis

- According to *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*:
 - A position or proposition that a person advances and offers to maintain by argument
 - **Simply said: A clear and concise way to state and support your opinion on a specific topic.**



Thesis Statement Asks

- What will your essay be about?
- What is the main idea of your essay?
- What idea or concept do you want to introduce to your reader?

Thesis Sentence

- focuses and directs the essay
- can be found in the introduction (usually the last line)
- Your opinion + Support
- is a statement NOT A QUESTION!!!

A thesis sentence NEVER


- **announces itself** "I'm going to talk about . . ."
- **personalizes** "I think . . ."
or "I believe . . ."
- **questions** "Is English hard to learn?"


Thesis Statements in a Formal Essay


- **Never uses first/ second person**
 - ***I, ME, MY, MINE, YOU, YOUR, YOURS***
 - ***WE, US, OUR, OURS***

Important Parts of your Thesis Statement

- **Writer's purpose**: Your particular position
- **Author Credentials**:
 - Author
 - Genre of literary work
 - Title of literary work
- **Subtopics**: 3 supporting examples

- 
- A thesis statement is not one word.
 - **Topic:** Lessons
 - **Thesis statement:** In Paulo Coelho's novel, The Alchemist, Santiago must learn the lessons of perseverance, belief in oneself, and sacrifice in order to achieve his personal legend.
 - **Topic:** Decisions
 - **Thesis Statement:** In Shakespeare's play, *Romeo and Juliet*, faulty, rash, and immature decisions contribute to the main characters' downfall.

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- Your thesis statement **MUST** be arguable. It cannot be a stated or obvious fact.
 - Ask yourself: Can someone take an opposing side to my main point?

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- **Obvious Thesis statement:** In Paulo Coelho's novel, *The Alchemist*, Santiago must learn the lessons of perseverance, belief in oneself, and sacrifice in order to achieve his personal legend.
 - **Revised Thesis Statement:** In Paulo Coelho's novel, *The Alchemist*, the loss of Santiago's money benefited him because he learned how to persevere, to believe in himself, and to sacrifice in order to achieve his personal legend.