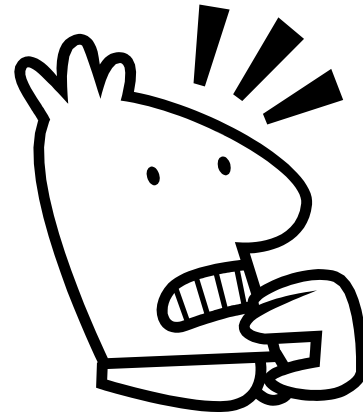


# The Thesis Statement

- Does writing a thesis statement make you feel like this?



# Don't panic!

- Mr. Howard is here to help.



# What makes an effective thesis statement?

- An effective thesis statement has three characteristics:
  - It clearly expresses your paper's main idea.
  - It communicates your essay's purpose.
  - It is clearly worded.

# What a thesis statement is **not**



- It is not the title of your essay
- It is not an announcement of your intent
- It is not a statement of fact
- It is not a mere description of your subject

# Would these examples make effective thesis statements?

- Hybrid Cars: Pro and Con
- This paper will discuss George Orwell's attitude toward the death penalty in his essay "A Hanging."
- Once I saw someone cheating and did not speak out.
- As I look back at the cheating I witnessed, I wonder why I kept silent and what would have happened if I had acted.

# Avoid Simple Statements of Fact

- The first polygraph was developed by Dr. John A. Larson in 1921.
- Instead, be sure to have a point:  
Because the polygraph has not been proved reliable, even under the most controlled conditions, its use by private employers should be banned.

# Avoid Simple Statements of Fact

- Many college students work while attending classes.

Instead, write something like this:

- Working while attending college classes remains necessary for many students, but unfortunately many problems result from the difficulties of balancing work and school.

# What Else Do You Need to Know to Be Successful Writing Thesis Statements?

- High School students should focus on writing **implicit** thesis statements rather than explicit ones. Explicit stopped being cool after middle school, yo!
- An **implicit** thesis statement implies the paper's main idea. (No "I" statement)
- An **explicit** thesis statement announces the paper's main idea. (Has "I" statement)



# Implicit or Explicit?

- Working while attending college classes remains necessary for many students, but unfortunately many problems result from the difficulties of balancing work and school.
- I will now discuss examples of how going to college and working full time puts pressure on students and results in many dropping out of school.

# Implicit or Explicit?

- I will examine the pros and cons of hybrid cars that use both gasoline and electricity
- Hybrid cars that use both gasoline and electricity would decrease our country's dependence on foreign oil.

# Implicit or Explicit?

- From the misery of the untouchables, the world should learn a lesson: isolating and punishing any group of people is dehumanizing and immoral.
- I am going to write about how the untouchables are treated in India.

# One last thing to know: Specific or General?

- **Specific thesis** statements name what the writer plans to cover in the essay. Sometimes this type of statement is referred to as the “plural noun” formula.
- **General thesis** statements use more general language to focus the discussion and give writers much greater latitude in what they might cover with a given topic.
- In this class we **ONLY** write specific thesis statements. Learn it. Love it.

# Which one is specific and which one is general?

- Global warming will cause ice caps and glaciers to melt, oceans to warm, and sea levels to rise.
- Global warming will have many negative consequences for the environment.

# Let's Practice!

- Rewrite these explicit thesis statements into implicit thesis statements.
  1. In the following paragraphs, I will share with you the traffic problems experienced by drivers in Northwest Florida.
  2. In this paper, I will be writing about how the rising cost of energy is causing me serious problems.

# Here are possible revisions:

1. Motorists in Northwest Florida are plagued by congested roads, aggressive drivers, and distracted tourists.
2. The rising price of energy has added costs to daily commutes, has curtailed frivolous trips, and has increased grocery bills.