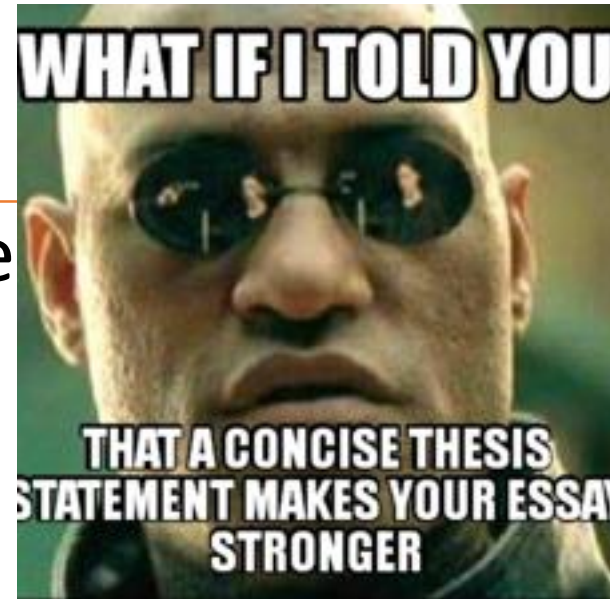


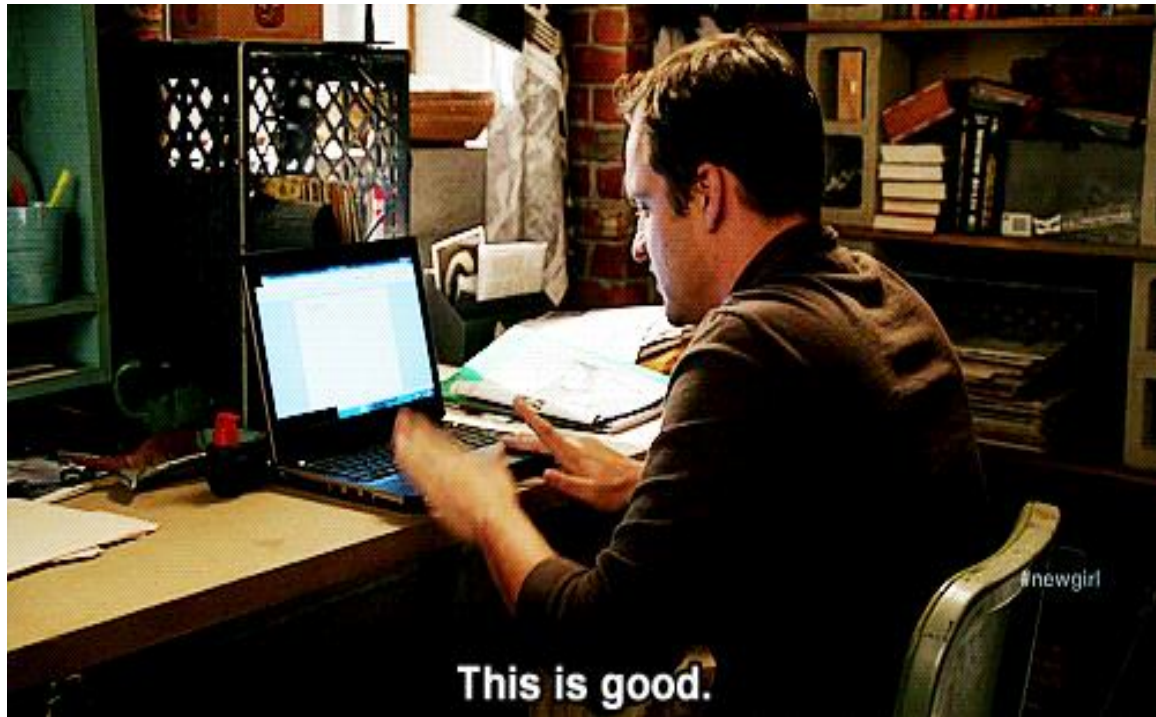
# Thesis Statement

- tells the reader how you will interpret the significance of the subject matter under discussion.
- is a road map for the paper. It tells the writer what to write, and the reader what he/she will be reading.
- directly answers the question asked of you. A thesis is an interpretation of a question or subject, not the subject itself. The subject, or topic, of an essay might be World War II or Moby Dick; a thesis must then offer a way to understand the war or the novel.



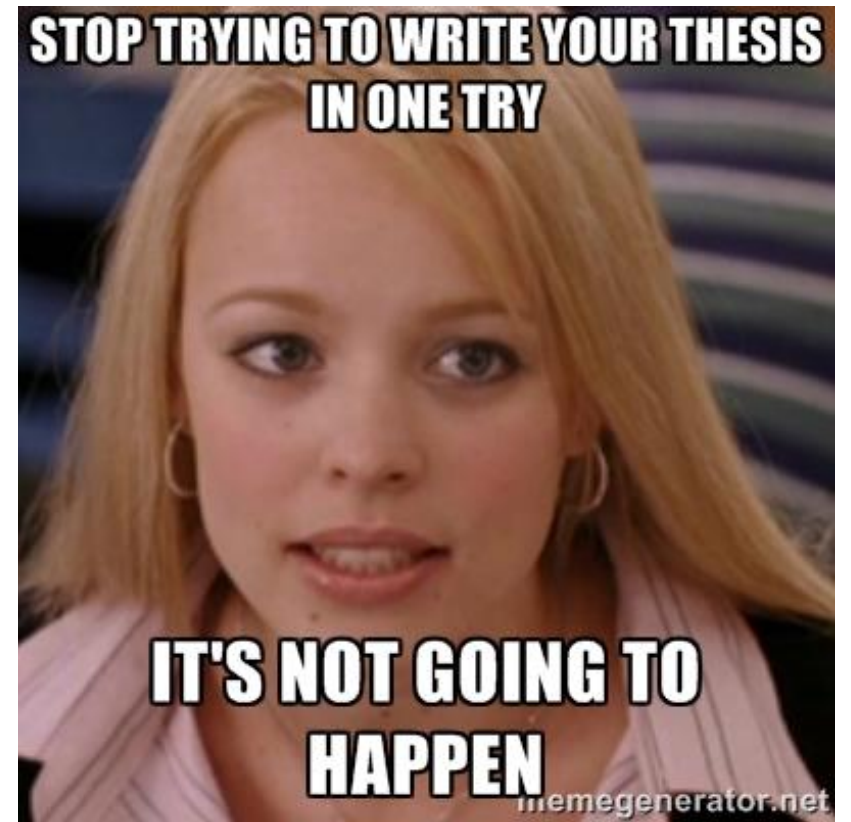
# Thesis Statement

- makes a claim that others might dispute.
- Thesis statements should be specific!
- is usually a single sentence near the beginning of your paper (most often, at the end of the first paragraph) that presents your argument to the reader. The rest of the paper, the body of the essay, gathers and organizes evidence that will persuade the reader of the logic of your interpretation



# Thesis Statement

- A thesis is the result of a lengthy thinking process. Formulating a thesis is not the first thing you do after reading an essay assignment.
- Before you develop an argument on any topic, you have to collect and organize evidence, look for possible relationships between known facts (such as surprising contrasts or similarities), and think about the significance of these relationships.





# Thesis Statement

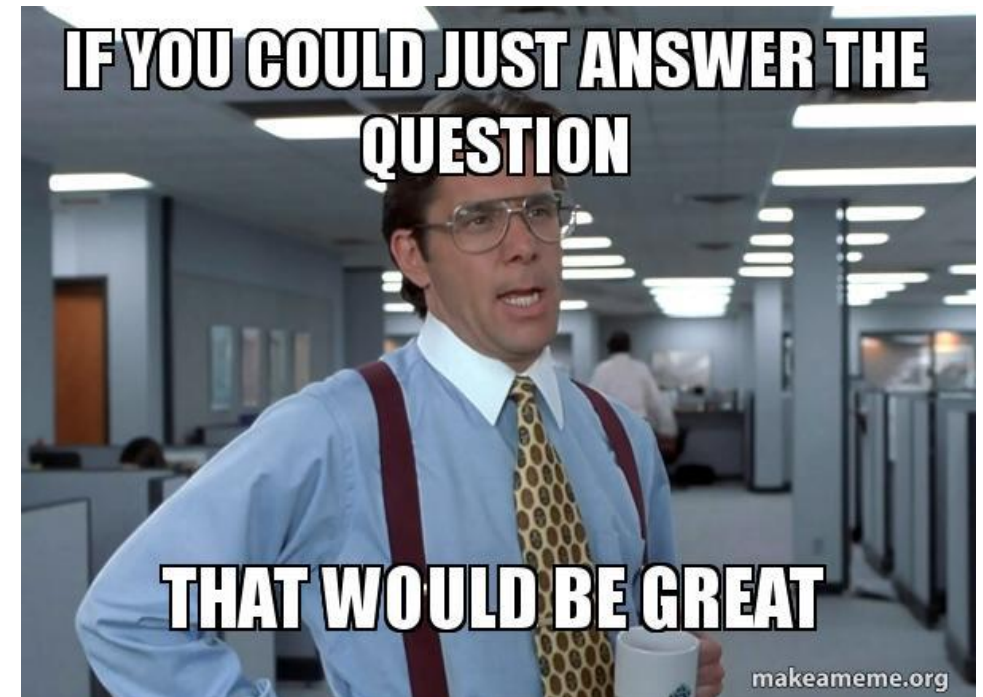
- Once you do this thinking, you will probably have a “working thesis” that presents a basic or main idea and an argument that you think you can support with evidence. Both the argument and your these are likely to need adjustment along the way.

- Writers use all kinds of techniques to stimulate their thinking and to help them clarify relationships or comprehend the broader significance of a topic and arrive at a thesis statement.



# Thesis Statement Checklist

- ***Do I answer the question?*** Re-reading the question prompt after constructing a working thesis can help you fix an argument that misses the focus of the question.
- ***Have I taken a position that others might challenge or oppose?*** If your thesis simply states facts that no one would, or even could, disagree with, it's possible that you are simply providing a summary, rather than making an argument.  
*Example: "Homework is time-consuming." This is not a thesis statement because no one in their right mind would disagree with it.*



# Thesis Statement Checklist

- ***Is my thesis statement specific enough?*** Thesis statements that are too vague often do not have a strong argument. If your thesis contains words like "good" or "successful," see if you could be more specific: *why* is something "good"; *what specifically* makes something "successful"?
- ***Does my thesis pass the "So what?" test?*** If a reader's first response is, "So what?" then you need to clarify, to forge a relationship, or to connect to a larger issue.
- Example: "Water parks are fun." Your reader will probably say "...why am I reading about this? Why do I care that you think water parks are fun?" "Research suggests that visits to water parks can reduce stress among children and teens" (I'm making this up, but this sounds more interesting than "water parks are fun.")
- ***Does my thesis pass the "how and why?" test?*** If a reader's first response is "how?" or "why?" your thesis may be too open-ended and lack guidance for the reader. See what you can add to give the reader a better take on your position right from the beginning.