**Why thesis statements are AWESOME!**

* They are one sentence long.
* They don’t beat around the bush.
* They are powerful. Think of them as the map of your entire paper; without a clear thesis, your reader gets lost.
* They make a claim about your topic that can be debated (argumentative/persuasive).
* They are supported by the evidence you provide throughout the rest of your essay.

**Where the thesis belongs in the paper:**

* Although it is often the very first part of your PREWRITING for an essay, the thesis actually should not come until the last sentence of your introduction. It’s very important to remember that before you get into the body of your paper, you have to give your reader “the map.”

**What the thesis should say:**

* Very clearly, the thesis should answer the writing prompt using key words and phrases from the prompt to ensure that the writer is following the assignment.
* A thesis has TWO IMPORTANT PARTS: The WHAT (topic) and the WHY (reason or reasons).
* You want to avoid a thesis being too listy. This gives away too much information. You don’t want your paper to be too predictable (just as you don’t want to walk into a movie and know the ending before you find your seat).

**Let’s try it!**

Consider the following writing prompt: who is most to blame for Romeo and Juliet’s deaths and why?

Here are three attempts at thesis statements to answer the prompt. Given the information at the top of this paper, rank the thesis statements from 1 (being best) to 3 (being worst):

\_\_\_\_ Romeo is most to blame for his and Juliet’s deaths because, throughout the play, he makes choices before thinking about the consequences.

\_\_\_\_ Romeo is most to blame.

\_\_\_\_ Romeo is primarily to blame for his and Juliet’s deaths because he rushes into the marriage, is prone to overdramatic depressive episodes, and he kills Tybalt in Act Three.

After discussing the above, you can now try to formulate a thesis statement of your own, based on our current writing prompt. **Once you have your thesis, show your teacher to get it approved.** *Remember, just like any aspect of writing, you may need to revise your thesis a couple of times in order to get it right.*