**Writing a Thesis Statement in 3 steps**

An **argumentative** paper makes a claim about a topic and justifies this claim with specific evidence. The claim could be an opinion, a policy proposal, an evaluation, a cause-and-effect statement, or an interpretation. The goal of the argumentative paper is to convince the audience that the claim is true based on the evidence provided.

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| 1. **Make the topic specific** | 1. **Continue with a claim** | 1. **Explain the significance to the audience** |
| **Exactly who?**  **When?**  **How many?**  **Which ones?**  **Where?** | **does…**  **does not…**  **should…**  **should not…**  **highlights…**  **ignores…** | **, proving that…**  **, resulting in…**  **, making us doubt…**  **, reminding us that…**  **, in order to…** |

Example of an argumentative thesis statements:

* High school graduates should be required to take a year off to pursue community service projects before entering college in order to increase their maturity and global awareness.
* The longer school day in Chicago next year does not guarantee that students will be productive in classes, reminding us that young people need to find learning meaningful.

Form your thesis statement: Choose a main point about your topic to emphasize in your paper. Using the formula above, write a thesis statement for the controlling idea. Revise your thesis statement until it says exactly what you want it to say.