What is the thesis and what does it do?

The thesis statement establishes the specific idea that focuses and organizes your paper. It is an interpretation of a question, issue or subject, not the subject itself.

A GOOD working thesis …

1) Is the answer to a question that can be debated, not a vague generality or a basic fact.

2) Narrows your topic to a main idea.

3) Makes a claim or states your view about your topic.

4) Explains the significance of your topic and presents your specific argument.

5) Provokes thinking by relating to a larger issue.

6) Requires supporting details, facts, and examples.

7) Anticipates and unifies all that follows.

8) Is expressed in 1-2 sentences early in your paper.
The way the TV show *Grey’s Anatomy* portrays doctors and nurses is interesting.

In its weekly dramatization of the experiences of doctors and nurses as they treat patients, navigate medical bureaucracy, and negotiate bioethical dilemmas, the TV show *Grey’s Anatomy* portrays health care professionals as unfailingly caring and noble.
Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn* is a great American novel.

In his novel *Huckleberry Finn*, American writer Mark Twain develops a contrast between life on the river and life on the shore.

Through its contrasting river and shore scenes, Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn* suggests that to find the true expression of American democratic ideals, one must leave "civilized" society and go back to nature.
Social networking sites can cause problems.

While social networking sites like Facebook and MySpace offer many positive benefits, young users risk exposure to unethical behaviors including online harassment, cyber-bullying, and sexual advances.
The North and South fought the Civil War for many reasons, some of which were the same and some different.

While both sides fought the Civil War over the issue of slavery, the North fought for moral reasons while the South fought to preserve its own institutions.

While both Northerners and Southerners believed they fought the Civil War against tyranny and oppression, Northerners focused on the oppression of slaves while Southerners defended their own right to self-government.
Teen suicides are on the rise today.

In recent years, the suicide rate among teens has risen dramatically due to a wide range of factors, such as social issues, academic pressure, and family expectations.

According to a 2009 study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, suicide is the third-leading cause of death for teens surpassed only by accidents and homicide (55). In recent years, the suicide rate among teens has risen dramatically due to a wide range of factors, such as social issues, academic pressure, and family expectations.
President Barack Obama’s management traits and his worldview, encompassing everything from sustainability to a broader international focus, are likely to influence how American business is practiced and taught in the coming years.

The modern expressionist painter Georges Rouault was at the center of the Parisian art world at the turn of the century, but his inclinations toward religious art dealing in mournful allegory set him apart from the usual tendencies in advanced art at the time.

The American Dietary Association reports that “half of all American elementary school children consume nine times the recommended daily allowance of sugar” (Jones 125). Consequently, schools should be required to replace the beverages in soda machines with healthy alternatives.