**Writing a Complete Thesis Statement**

Think about your topic before you begin:

* Is the commentary a strong opinion or just stating a fact?
* Is it specific enough to be interesting?
* Not specific enough: School is good.
* Is it arguable? Can the obverse view be argued as well?
* Specific: Attending school regularly is the best way to become a successful communicator.
* Is it concise? Can you say it more briefly?
* Is it written in present or past tense? Writing about literature should be in present tense. Writing about history should be in past tense.
* Does it use I, my, me, or other first person? It shouldn’t. All formal expository writing MUST be in the Third Person. She writes, They write, etc…
* Is there enough “meat” to develop the idea? Test: Brainstorm…list three or four main ideas that could support your thesis statement

Once brainstorming is complete, and some research has been conducted, think about how you would like to prove your point, or what you'd like to say about it. Your thesis statement is made up of an assertion, and the three points that will be discussed in the body paragraphs of the essay.

Example (basic):

School uniforms should be made mandatory because they reduce bullying, improve grades, and

Your turn:

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 (assertion-what you will prove)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
 (1st reason) (2nd reason) (3rd reason)