

## Essay Planning Worksheet #1

### Thesis Statements

The thesis statement is the most critical part of your entire essay. It organizes exactly what you are going to do for the rest of the essay. If you have no thesis, or an unclear idea of one, then your entire essay will have no argument or an unclear idea. Focus on putting your main idea into **ONE** sentence that you can argue for and prove. Answer the following questions in order:

1. What is the question? (Rephrase the question in your own words so **YOU** understand.)

2. What is your answer to the question? (Brainstorm **ideas**; don't think about the format of a thesis just yet)

#### Think about:

a. What are you going to prove?

b. How are you going to prove it?

#### So What?

3. Write a **draft** of your thesis statement

Does it include:

- a. The authors and titles of the work or works? (Quotes for shorter pieces, italics for novels)
- b. What you are going to prove? (Something that answers the question and can be argued)
- c. How you are going to prove it? (What evidence are you going to use?)
- d. So What?