**Developing a Good Thesis Station**

STEP ONE:

Read the handout “Thesis Statements That Suck”

**Thesis Statements That Suck**

**Announcing something**

* + I’m going to describe Shakespeare’s love life.
  + This essay will examine the life of a politician.

**What’s so wrong?**

These statements provide the reader with an idea about what the essay will discuss, but don’t actually put anything on the line. There’s nothing at stake, no specific issue to be resolved and absolutely nothing to make the reader want to learn more.

**Stating the obvious**

* Shakespeare wrote a lot about love.
* Politicians work long hours.

**What’s so wrong?**

If very few people are likely to disagree with the issues you discuss in your essay, what’ the point in wasting time analyzing them? Your thesis statement needs to make a claim that someone may disagree with. You will then spend your essay arguing why your claim is true.

**Asking a question**

* Did Shakespeare ever get married?
* Why are politicians paid so much?

**What’s so wrong?**

Your thesis statement should be clearly stating your position and the purpose of the essay, not posing a question. These questions are weak and do not give your reader any idea about what you’re intending to prove in your paper.

So, now that we know what a poor statement looks like, how do you write a **fabulous** one?

STEP TWO:

Watch this Shmoop video on Thesis Statements.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8wxE8R_x5I0>

STEP THREE:

Read the Kibin Article on Top 10 Thesis Statements

STEP FOUR:

Preview the formula for creating a thesis statement on the “How to write a thesis statement” infographic. Follow the formula and craft a thesis statement in that format.

STEP FIVE:

Return to the Working Thesis handout from earlier. Review all the information about good thesis statements and revise your thesis.