**Developing a Good Thesis Station**

**STEP ONE:**

Read the information below.

**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**:

View the PowerPoint (go back to web site for link) and write a working thesis on the Writing Stations Answer Packet.

**STEP FOUR:**

Look at the formula for creating a thesis statement on the “How to write a thesis statement” infographic (link on web site). Follow the formula and revise the working thesis. Record your thesis on the Writing Stations Answer Sheet.