Thesis Statements
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• State the main point of the argument
• Generally appear early in the paper (End of first paragraph) (Axelrod and Cooper p.582)
• Everything in the essay must relate
Types:

• Assertion of opinion
• Assertion of policy
• Assertion of evaluation
• Assertion of cause
• Assertion of interpretation (582-583)
Characteristics of good Thesis Statements

• Arguable
• Clear
• Appropriately qualified (583-585)
Characteristics of good Thesis Statements

• Limit the topic
• Make the writer’s position on the topic clear
• Set up the aspects of the topic presented (“. . . focuses the reader’s attention on the specific features of the subject you will discuss”)
• (Schffhorst and Pharr 26).
Assertion of cause

• Focuses on the trend or phenomenon
• Announces the causes
• “A better answer, though, is that social media offer people a way to satisfy their desire to connect with others, and maybe also be “world-famous for fifteen minutes. . .” (Axelrod and Cooper p. 393).
Assertion of Policy

• The solution and advantages:
  • “If professors gave additional brief exams at frequent intervals, students would be spurred to study more regularly, learn more, worry less, and perform better on midterms, finals, and other papers and projects (Axelrod and Cooper p. 365).

• The aspects or parts of the solution:
  • To curb head injuries in professional football, the league must adopt stringent anti-roughing rules, change helmet design, and provide immediate checks for concussions.