Thesis Statements
Thesis statement

- “A thesis asserts or states the main point of any argument you want to make.” (Axelrod and Cooper 582).
- The thesis often contains a forecasting statement that sets up the topics.
A thesis statement must:

- 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).
Thesis Qualities

- Arguable
- Clear
- Appropriately qualified
- (Axelrod and Cooper 660-661).
Thesis statements

- Generally occur in the first paragraph
- All ideas in the paper must relate to the thesis.
- Must be a sentence
- Must be an assertion
Like Aldo Leopold, I have come to realize the memories are more important than the size of fish I catch.

In “February” Aldo Leopold points out that our food and energy comes from nature. While I don’t study the history as closely as Leopold, as a hunter who burns wood, I see the natural turn into food and energy.
Possible Thesis Statements

- Martin and Raymond Cross both spent much of their lives representing others, but Martin did so as an elected official while Raymond did so as a career.
- Both the Pick and Sloan plans had irrigation and flood control as a purpose, but Pick’s plan centered around a series of large dams while Sloan’s plan utilized feeder streams and wouldn’t inundate as much native American land.