Thesis Statement Questions

*Why do I need a thesis statement in my essays?*

A thesis statement (one or possibly two sentences) is the most important part of your essay. It is the foundation upon which you construct your paper. It is your idea, the whole reason you are writing your paper, and what you are trying to convince your reader of. A "rough draft" thesis statement crafted as you start writing your essay guides you as you constantly ask about each sentence you write: "Does this support my thesis statement?"

*What does a thesis statement consist of?*

The best thesis statement is made up of:

1. Your topic
2. Your point of view on the topic
3. At least one supporting reason for your view
4. The significance of all this

Examples: Nixon (topic) was a bad president (point of view) because he was directly responsible for Watergate (supporting reason) which interfered with an intelligent debate (significance).

*How do I construct a thesis statement?*

You can construct a thesis by asking yourself three questions:

1. What is my idea about my topic?
2. Why do I have this opinion?
3. So what?

Some Guidelines for Thesis Statements:

1. They should be open to debate.
2. They should NOT be in the form of a question.
3. They should have correct focus and zero in on the topic precisely, covering neither too much nor too little ground for the length of the essay.
4. They may be placed in the introduction (as in most college essays), near the end (as in many argumentative essays), or eliminated entirely and just implied (a common strategy of skilled, professional writers).