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Guided Notes – Thesis Statement Lecture

1. What is the dictionary definition of a thesis statement?

* After learning the definition, make sure you know that a thesis statement is not just a pure statement. It also reveals your opinion on an issue. Thesis statements are statements AND arguments.
* Nearly every piece of writing you will create in your academic life will need a thesis statement. A thesis statement is necessary because it helps show your audience your stance on the issue and what your paper will be about.

2. How will a pro/con graphic organizer help you when devising your thesis statement?

3. What is literary analysis?

* Literary analysis is the analysis of literature. You need to have an argumentative thesis statement when writing literary analysis because there can be many interpretations of a book. Although some meanings are clear, many novels and works of literature will have meanings that can be interpreted differently. Many author’s don’t write their own reader’s guide to their books, so it is up to the reader to decipher what their deeper meaning is. With a good thesis statement and supporting evidence, you can convince your reader of your analysis.
* Many of you will have different interpretations when reading. Some will be what the author intended and some will not. If you have written about something the author has not intended, but still makes sense with the work, you will need an especially strong thesis statement to prove this!

4. Knowing what we do now about thesis statements, do you think you can write thesis statements about things like music and art? Why or why not?

5. How does a thesis work together with the rest of your essay?

* Thesis statements are crucial elements in setting up an essay. You need a thesis statement so that you can build your body paragraphs around it. Think of the thesis statement as the overall idea your essay is trying to prove. Each body paragraph is then used to give evidence proving your thesis statement.

6. Can you find thesis statements in every day life? Where?