Thesis Handout:

Formulating a Thesis Statement for your Research Paper~

Remember STAP~

Subject

Topic

Audience

Purpose

Checklist for Focusing Process:

What is my Subject?

What is my specific topic within the general subject?

What do I intend to do in my paper? What is my purpose?

What is my position on that specific topic?

Once you have answered the aforementioned questions, now you are getting closer to determining your thesis:

Subject: Families

Topic: The role of faith in families

Audience: Who do I want my audience to be? Families who might be contemplating divorce, or families in doubt about if faith has any efficacy.

Purpose: To inform and to persuade

Thesis: Families are becoming increasingly diverse and include various dynamics that include size, gender preference, blended family units and the traditional nuclear family; however, research continues to support that the role of some form of faith practiced within familial units strengthens them and decreases the incidence of divorce.

Once you have formulated a working thesis (remember, the thesis you compose in September may or may not be identical to the final research paper thesis you submit in November), then flip your thesis statement into a question:
Do families, regardless of their diversity and dynamics and where some form of faith is practiced, maintain a stronger familial unit and does faith help decrease the incidence of divorce?

Finally, copy and paste your thesis statement and highlight in pink the opinion portion of your thesis statement and highlight in blue the fact. Remember, you must have a definitive opinion because that becomes your point of attack in your research paper. Your point of attack signals to the reader why you believe the way you do.

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