

Check List for a Well-developed Thesis Statements

Write out the main idea from your paper (the point you want the reader to get) in 25 or fewer words, and then answer the following questions:

1. What question is my assignment asking? How can I answer that question AND focus on a small area of investigation?
2. Can I sum up the main idea of my paper in a nutshell? See if you can reduce to a sentence or two the main idea that you wrote just now.
3. What "code words" (such as "relative freedom" or "lifestyles") does the draft of my thesis statement contain? Are these words adequately explained?
4. As I read my paper, have I supported the thesis, or digressed? Where? How?