Checklist—Writing an Effective Thesis Statement

Use this checklist to ensure that you are writing a clear and effective thesis statement. Check the box for each of the following criteria that your thesis statement meets.

☐ Your thesis statement focuses on a single, central idea

☐ Your thesis statement argues something specific about your subject (make sure it is as specific as possible).

☐ The argument that you are making in your thesis statement can be supported with evidence (research or examples).

☐ All the words/phrases in your thesis statement communicate a single idea.

☐ Your thesis statement lists what you will be covering in your essay.

☐ Your thesis statement is an idea that can be argued, rather than a fact. For example, “The Apple brand is estimated to be valued at $98.3 billion dollars US” is a fact and therefore not an effective thesis statement.