1. **Characteristics of good and bad thesis statements**

Good thesis statements...

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| ...express an attitude or a point of view (that the reader may disagree with) |
| 🗶 | Announcement | I will talk about the problems youth prodigies may face. |
| 🗶 | Question | Does being a youth prodigy involve long-term risks? |
| ✓ | Thesis statement | Being a youth prodigy is not a guarantee of future success. |
| ...can be supported with several points |
| 🗶 | Too broad | Student protests are usually successful. |
| 🗶 | Too narrow | The average student has been involved in one or more protests. |
| ✓ | Thesis statement | A protest can be an effective way for students to influence government policy. |
| ...are valid statements |
| 🗶 | Vague | Success is very important. |
| 🗶 | Obvious | Many people dream of being successful. |
| 🗶 | Invalid | Everyone is obsessed with success. |
| ✓ | Thesis statement | My father has become a successful person because of his determination, his sound ethical principles, and his healthy work-family balance. |

**Examine the following thesis statements. Put a checkmark next to the sentence if it is a good thesis statement. Otherwise, indicate the problem using the above list as a reference.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Thesis statement** |  |
| Why is the price of oil so high? |  |
| One in every 100 newborn children will become a prodigy. |  |
| Everyone believes in something. |  |
| Travel teaches people about tolerance, humility and respect. |  |
| In this paper, I will discuss two child prodigies. |  |
| Brandnames are taking over the world. |  |
| There should not be racial profiling at borders. |  |
| Canadians are less patriotic. |  |
| My topic is the importance of striving for success. |  |

1. **Practice**

Practice writing thesis statements about a topic.

Start by narrowing down your topic. Then, write a thesis statement.

Example:

|  |  |
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| Topic: **Mistakes**  | Narrowed topic: **Mistakes couples make** |
| Thesis statement: **When people first fall in love, they make several common mistakes** |