**Introduction / Thesis Paragraph**

**Your introduction paragraph must consist of 3 things:**

* A hook sentence. Your opening to what your essay will be about.
* It has to state your three main reasons that you will be arguing.
* To end the paragraph, a thesis statement.

**How to Write a Thesis Statement in 3 Easy Steps:**

A Thesis Statement is one or two sentences found at the end of your introduction that briefly express the main idea of your paper and answer any questions about your topic. The thesis statement unifies the ideas of your paper and provides direction for developing your argument.

**Step 1:**

Write down your main point. This should answer all the question in the assignment and it should be specific and focused. A simple way to write a thesis is to think of it as an equation:

**What you plan to argue + How you plan to argue it = Thesis Statement**

**Step 2:**

If a reader can say “how?” or “why?” or “so what?” after reading your thesis, you need to alter your thesis so that is answers those questions.

**Step 3:**

Does the rest of your essay support your thesis? Sometimes you can write your whole essay and realize that it has nothing to do with the thesis you wrote earlier. That’s okay. You either have to change your whole paper to fit your thesis, or modify your thesis to fit your paper. As long as you have a strong, cohesive essay in the end, it doesn’t matter what order you write things in.

**Sample Thesis Statements**

**#1. Why Vaccinations Should Be Mandatory**

Today, nearly 40% of American parents refuse to vaccinate their children due to a variety of unfounded fears. Vaccinations against diseases such as polio, rubella and mumps, should be mandatory, without exception, for all children of the U.S. who wish to attend school. These vaccinations are critical to the control and eradication of deadly infectious diseases.

**#2. Government Surveillance Is Harmful**

Government surveillance programs do more harm than good because they invade civil liberties, lead innocent people to suffer unfair punishments, and ultimately fail to protect the citizens that they are designed to safeguard. For these reasons, programs such as PRISM operated by the NSA should be discontinued.

**#3. Our School Is Too Dependent on Technology**

Our school’s dependence on technology has caused students to lose the ability to think independently. This dependence has caused a greater prevalence of mood disorders, memory loss, and loneliness. Educators should combat these issues by requiring students to participate in regular technology detoxes.

**#4. China’s One-Child Policy Should Be Reversed**

China’s one-child policy was intended to help control population growth. Instead, it has led to unintended and negative consequences, such as diminishing labor force, an aging population, the neglect of basic human rights and an unbalanced gender population. To improve China’s situation, the policy should be reversed.