Thinking About Your Thesis
Blinn College – Bryan Writing Center – Online Handout

This worksheet will enable you to draft and revise a thesis statement so you will be able to write your paper more effectively. Write your response to each of the following in the space below:


2. What is the most important thing you want your paper to say about your topic? What is your paper’s main idea? (Remember, your paper’s main idea is different than your paper’s topic.)

3. In this paper, are you taking a position on the topic? If so, what is your position?

   Why do you feel that way? What are the reasons behind your position?

4. Now, to answer your research question in the form of a thesis, combine your position and your reasons (Is the media to blame for today’s impossibly slender, tan, and hip ideal female image? While the media does have some influence on the body image(s) of females, research shows that parents and peer pressure are also important factors). You may want to write a few versions of your thesis, in order to tweak the phrasing.
   a.

   b.

   c.
5. Show your statements to another person. Which one does he/she like best? Which one do you prefer? Choose one or write another, and write the tentative thesis statement here:

6. How will this sentence shape your paper? How can you use it to make a tentative outline?
Example: While the media does have some influence on the body image(s) of females, research shows that parents and peer pressure are also important factors.
- Intro with thesis
- How the media influences body image
- How parents influence body image
- How peer pressure influences body image
- Conclusion