English 1010 Ms. Leach

Thesis Worksheet

A good thesis statement is:

1. Arguable or controversial: people may agree or disagree with your thesis statement.
2. Detailed and specific, i.e. not too broad or vague
3. Clearly written

For this assignment, please respond to the questions below on this thesis worksheet. While you may or may not explicitly state your thesis in your essay, your thesis should come across clearly to readers. For your thesis to come across clearly to readers, it must first be clear in your own mind. This assignment is designed to get you thinking not only about what your thesis is going to be, but how to evaluate your thesis to ensure it’s as strong as it could be. After all, a strong thesis is the basis for a strong essay.

Please upload this document with your responses as a Microsoft Word file to the appropriate dropbox **by Friday, October 9th at 11:59 PM**.

The purpose of this assignment is to get you to write the purpose or main point of your essay in a single sentence (or two). If it’s overly difficult or impossible to do, it means that your essay warrants a stronger focus.

As I wrote in one of my previous PowerPoint presentations, a good strategy for crafting your thesis is to write “What I want to say is that…” and finish the sentence. Then, once you’ve figured out what you want to say, you can delete the part that says “What I want to say is that…”—the rest of the sentence will be your thesis.

This prewriting assignment is worth 10 points.

1. What is your purpose for writing this essay?
2. Write your working thesis below.
3. Does your thesis encompass your purpose for writing? Why or why not?
4. Is it possible for anyone to disagree with your thesis?
5. Is your thesis detailed?
6. Is your thesis easy to read? Is it free of errors in grammar or punctuation?
7. If you answered “No” to questions 4, 5, and 6, how can you fix your thesis statement?
8. If applicable, write your revised thesis below.
9. Are you planning on stating your thesis overtly in your essay, or is your thesis going to be implied? If you choose the latter, how are you going to effectively imply the thesis so it’s clear to readers?
10. What evidence will you need to prove your thesis? In the space below, list the points you will discuss in your essay to prove your thesis.
11. For each of the points you listed in your response to question 8, list the examples you’ll need to prove those points. Think of points as mini theses. They, too, need to be substantiated.
12. Was this assignment helpful? Do you feel more comfortable with your thesis and essay 2 now?