Writing Applications: Writing a Strong Thesis Statement

2. Read that section.
3. Answer the following questions about the reading on a separate sheet of paper:
   - What are the four signs of a strong thesis?
   - In the online reading, the words “negative” and “positive” are not good word choices for a thesis statement for what reason?
   - Why might the following thesis statement be considered weak: Drugs are a problem in America.
   - Why should a thesis show a topic is controversial?
   - Why should a thesis statement present only one main idea?
4. If you have any questions, now is a good time to STOP and visit an instructor or a tutor to get some help. Write any questions you may have below before you go.

Once you are ready, go on to #5.

5. Analyze the following thesis statements. Decide whether they are strong or weak and label each with an S for strong or a W for weak. For those you label weak, explain why each is weak.
   - This essay is about global warming.
   - My extended family is interesting.
   - An extended family has benefits and drawbacks.
   - Global warming is negatively affecting Riverside County.
   - The new campus parking regulation is ineffective, and final exams should be held a week earlier.
   - Poverty has many causes and effects.
   - The causes of poverty are the current housing crisis, the high cost of food, and the high unemployment rate.
6. Before reviewing your answers with an instructor or tutor, use the space below to write any questions you still have:
7. Once you have reviewed your answers to all the above questions, take time to write a one-page letter to a friend who asks for your advice writing an essay. What does it take to write a strong thesis statement? Why should you be so concerned about your thesis statement? How does the thesis statement affect the essay?

8. Review your reflection with an instructor or tutor in the WRC, and see if the instructor or tutor has anything to add to help you understand what it takes to be successful on an in-class essay exam. Then, have that person sign and date this sheet.

______________________________________________________________________________
Instructor/Tutor signature

______________________________________________________________________________
Date

9. Return this completed, signed sheet to your instructor.