

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a pencil, poised to write on a lined notebook. The notebook is open, showing several pages with blue horizontal lines and a red margin line. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light brown color.

# The Thesis Statement

Tips for Writing a Great Thesis Statement

# What is a thesis statement?

A thesis statement is the sentence in an essay that lets the reader know the specific topic, rhetorical pattern, and main points of the essay.

- Specific topic: *trafficking in human organs*
- Rhetorical pattern: *leads to* (cause and effect rhetorical pattern)
- Main points: *exploitation of the poor, spread of disease, and increase in organized crime*

Model thesis sentence: *Trafficking in human organs leads to the exploitation of the poor, the spread of disease, and an increase in organized crime.*

OR

*The exploitation of the poor, the spread of disease, and an increase in organized crime are the major results of trafficking in human organs.*

# An effective thesis statement is not . . .

- Too narrow
- Too broad
- Unfocused
- Jane Austen wrote *Pride and Prejudice*.
- Going to school is a good choice.
- Students should not have to take English, and certain classes are graded too strictly.