TEMPLATES FOR WRITING THESIS STATEMENTS

Template 1: Use when you're given a specific assignment question

Example assignment question: In your view, what is the best way for municipal governments to promote pro-environment behaviours--providing incentives for "good" behaviours or instituting fines for "poor" behaviours? Why?

Step 1: Topic	Step 2: Question	Step 3: Answer (Thesis)
What is the assignment about?

Example topic:
The role of municipal governments in promoting pro-environment behaviours. | What is the question you are supposed to answer? (is there more than one?)

Example question:
Which is better for promoting pro-environment behaviours incentives or fines? AND Why? | Answer your question to form your thesis statement.

Example thesis statement:
Municipal governments can best promote pro-environment behaviours by providing incentives such as tax deductions and rebates; these positive approaches appeal to the public and make them feel good about helping the environment. |

Try it yourself

Topic:	Question:	Answer (Thesis):

Template 2: Use when you're given an assignment but not a specific question (you're going to make up the question)

Step 1: Topic	Step 2: Problem	Step 3: Question	Step 4: Answer (Thesis)
What area or issue are you interested in?

Example topic:
Using laptops to study in University | Within your topic, where is there controversy or uncertainty? What bothers you or seems strange?

Example problem:
It's unclear whether using laptops helps or hinders academic success in university. | What is a question you might ask about that problem?

Example question:
Are laptops an effective tool for academic success in university? | Answer your question to form your thesis statement.

Example thesis statement:
Although laptops may appear to be a useful study tool, the risks of using laptops for studying actually outweigh the benefits. |

Try it yourself

Topic:	Problem:	Question:	Answer (Thesis):