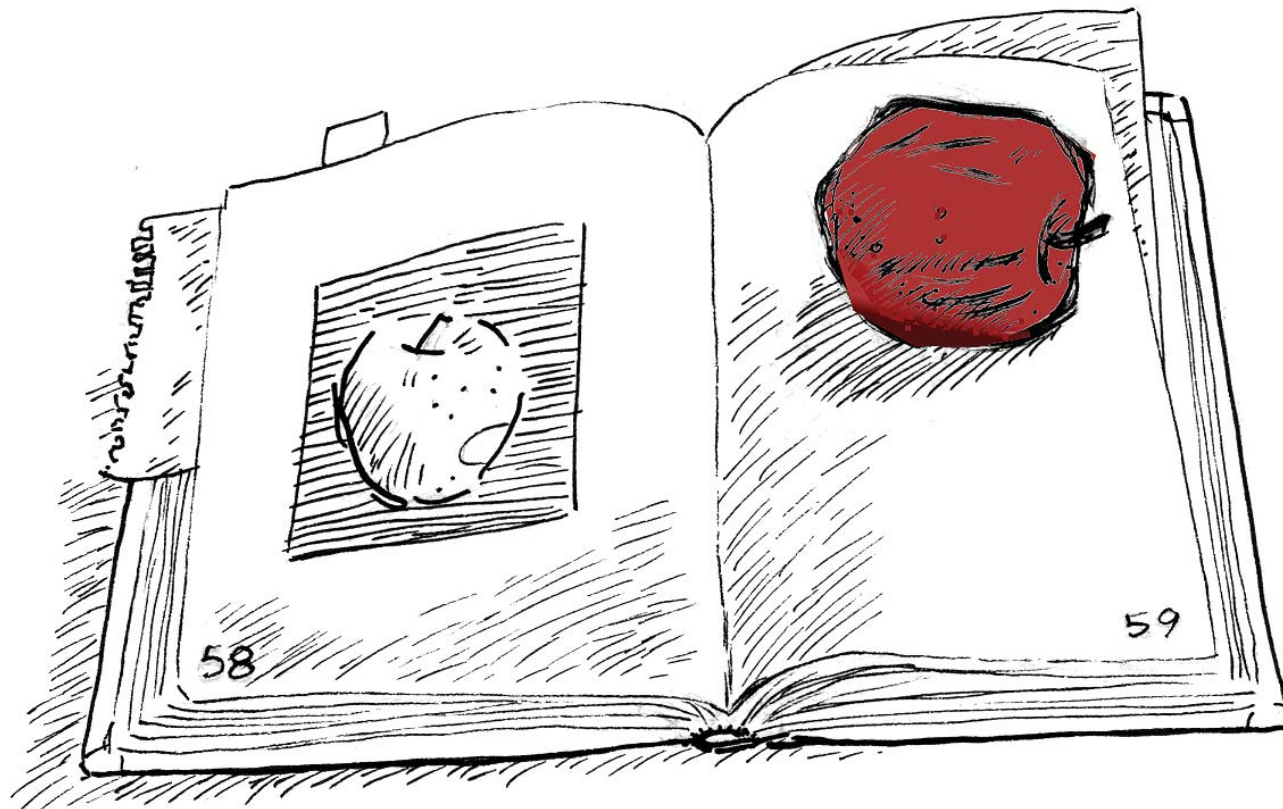


# What is a Thesis?

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# *What is a Thesis?*

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**The English 1301 basic thesis statement for argumentative papers is:**

- is the unifying force in the paper
- it is the point you are arguing; the thesis defines your position on a subject;  
your paper will provide convincing evidence to support the thesis
- a declarative statement, composed of one to two sentences

The thesis states a fact about your topic and your point of view on the topic:

**topic** + **opinion** + **fact**= thesis

**The Texas policy of capital punishment** **is a working example**  
**of a system of state-controlled policies which acts as a deterrent to crime.**

***However... >***

# *Critical Analysis Thesis*

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**Expectations for English 1302 papers require a higher level of thesis statements.**

Different requirements are needed to fulfill the notion of an opening declaration in critical analysis (literature review).

- Looking at the formula provided earlier: **topic** + **opinion** + **fact**= thesis
- the term “topic” needs to include the following:
  - > full name author(s) or critic(s) –**and**–
  - > year of publication in parentheses, for example: (2012) –**plus**–
  - > full details explored/examined in the paper

*What results is a heightened declaration of your analytical intentions.*

# *Critical Analysis Thesis*

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*A working example:*

Both Dr. Carol Johnson (2009), in her essay “The Decline of the Internet,” and as well Robert Seda-Toro (2012), in “The New Network,” agree that due to inherent flaws in the processing of information in the Digital Age, individuals who use such technology in the Twenties to gain facts or statistical data are using outdated modes of research, and as a result, students and investigators need to seriously review their methods.

- In this fashion the instructor/audience sees:
  - > the subject includes two authors and two named essays for review
  - > the topic and critics are timely, due to the provided year of publication
  - > the topic addresses *current* technology
  - > and a comparison/contrast formula will be utilized.
- The paper will only use defense examining these issues.