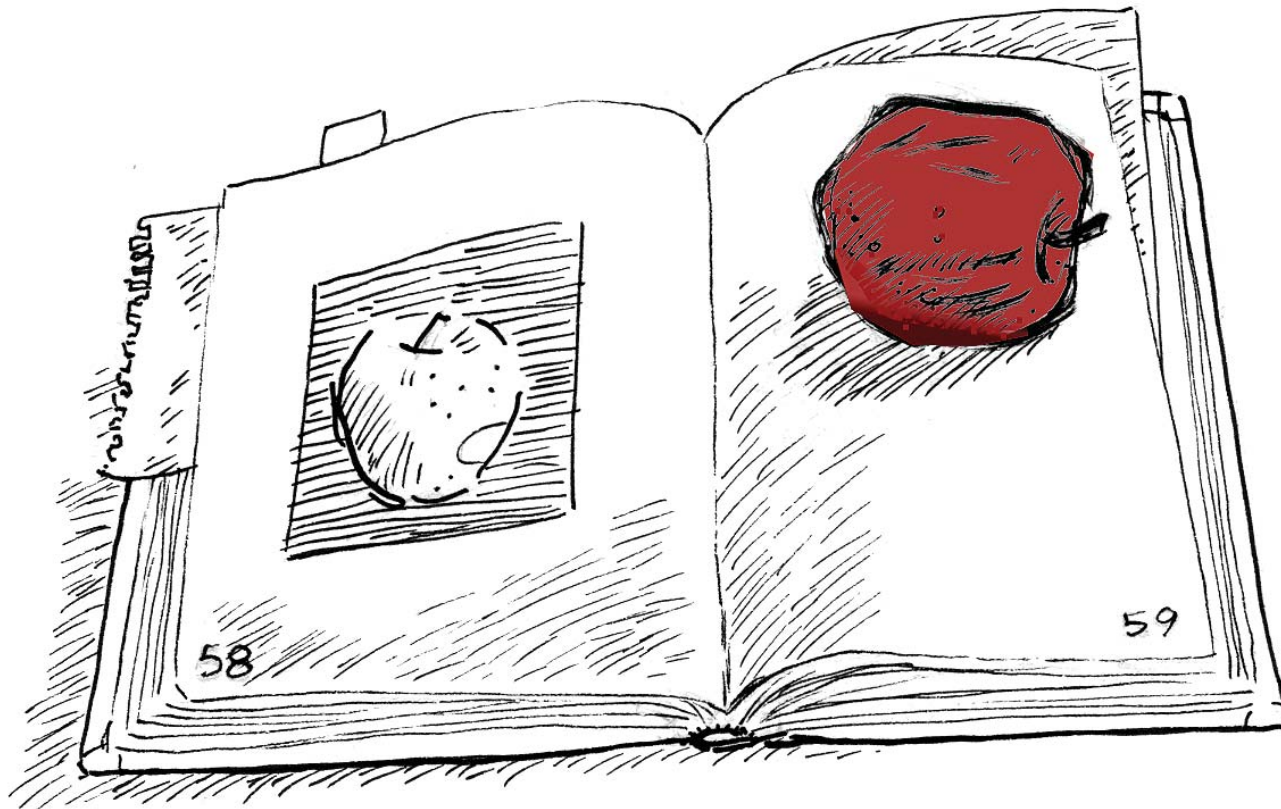


# What is a Thesis?

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# *What is a Thesis?*

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## **An English 1301 basic thesis statement:**

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

# *What is a Thesis?*

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

- In this fashion the instructor/audience sees:
  - > the student/author has an opinion on the debate,  
but is open for further discussion from both sides of the issue
  - > the narrow topic addresses specific Texas legislation regarding executions
  - > a cause/effect pattern will be utilized
- The paper will only use defense which examines the specific issues and statistics relating to Texas state policies on capital punishment.

# *Declaring a Thesis*

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**Typically the thesis is located as the last sentence of an introductory paragraph.**

On occasion, with cautious preparation, a thesis may be positioned in a non-obvious location within the opening sections of the full paper.

- communication with the instructor is important when experimenting with academic paper standards

# *Thesis Statements and Research*

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**All papers for this course involve some level of research.**

A working, preliminary thesis can help guide your beginning research.

- be prepared, a thesis may need to change as you gain new information and develop your paper
- a thesis contains terms and subtopics which point you in different directions
- a thesis may contain opposing viewpoints or items you wish to counter in your developing paper

**Items to keep in mind for the upcoming papers:**

1. Research can only come from the school library databases
2. Research is considered time consuming
3. Research is a formal process, a rite of passage
4. Research defends your opinions and observations